

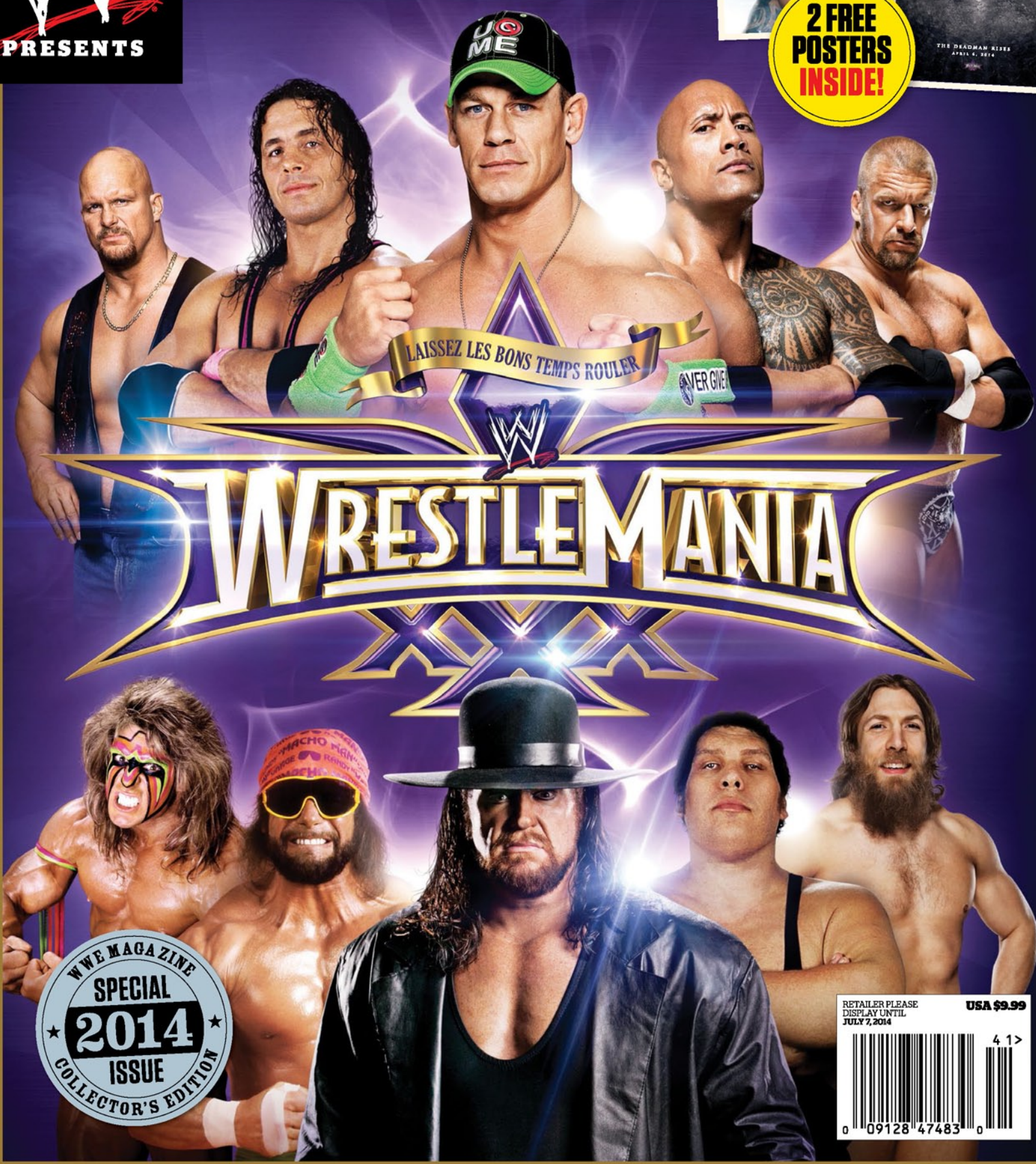


★★★★ 30 YEARS OF ★★★★★
WRESTLEMANIA!



2 FREE POSTERS INSIDE!

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WWE MAGAZINE
SPECIAL
2014
ISSUE
COLLECTOR'S EDITION

RETAILER PLEASE
DISPLAY UNTIL
JULY 7, 2014

USA \$9.99

0 09128 47483 0 4 1 >

ULTIMATE WARRIOR • UNDERTAKER • HULK HOGAN • THE ROCK • RANDY SAVAGE • BRET HART • SHAWN MICHAELS

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Special Features Count down *WrestleMania's* best entrances, celebrities, gimmicks, arenas and more. Plus, the night after!



The Archives Behold, *WrestleMania* artifacts revealed in all their glory!



The *WrestleMania* Guide Learn about 30 years of The Show of Shows with this full breakdown of every *WrestleMania*.



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One night can turn the ordinary into legendary. When *WrestleMania's* brilliant lights shine, the everyday becomes immortal. The competitors responsible for that tradition celebrate 30 years of The Show of Shows with exclusive interviews about what makes The Grandest Stage so very special and why its future will only get brighter.



Q&A Shawn Michaels on...

Handling 'Mania Pressure

"Mr. *WrestleMania*" Shawn Michaels explains how pizza and cookies can calm any nerves on the biggest night of the WWE calendar.

Given that you are Mr. *WrestleMania*, has it ever been weird to think that there was a time when you were just trying to make it on the show?

I have the ability now to look at my career in its entirety and that's where the humility and humbleness comes from. It didn't start out that way. I might be talking differently if I went out there, called myself Mr. *WrestleMania* and stunk up the joint. I'll confess, it's a lot easier to be humble and happy and proud and thankful for all of it seeing as it went pretty darn good. But now I see everything in my rearview mirror, so it's impossible for me not to see the journey, from beginning to the end, and look at the climb and just how wonderful it was. That's what keeps me humble because I remember a time, where all I just wanted to be on the show. That in and of itself was an accomplishment.

So how did your return at *WMXIX* against Chris Jericho differ from those first 'Manias?

It was the first one that I was getting to share with my new family. But I was very nervous and anxious about whether everything was still going to be there. I was

only doing a few shows here and there at that time. Obviously it's *WrestleMania* and there was still an expectation for Shawn Michaels's performances—even at *WMXIX*. I had been back for a bit and people felt like I hadn't lost too much. But did I have the ability to go up a notch at *WrestleMania*? That's all a bit of pressure. But thankfully, the joy of being back, the joy of being with Chris and all the positives at that point in my life so far outweighed the negatives and even the anxiety. You have the butterflies before you go out, but then when things start rolling, you just fall into a natural flow.

What's it been like having a family presence at the show?

It's a very welcome and needed distraction. Anytime the stress, the anxiety, the business, or the

pressure even begins to creep in, I go there and I hang out with my kids. Their innocence about everything and their ability to move past things quickly is very satisfying and brought me a great deal of comfort. That was a huge asset for me. I could be nervous or worried about something, but in their minds, the biggest concerns were what was going to be on the movie channel back at the room and if we would have pizza and cookies after the match. Their innocence really put things at ease and helped me stay balanced about the important things in life.

Is that when you're able to soak in the success of what you had just done? Do you ever fully digest a 'Mania match?

It would happen in the room. The kids were there, but they didn't really grasp it. They were just happy daddy was back and all his work was over with and they got pizza and cookies. Every time that I think it can't get any more amazing, it does. It never ceases to amaze me. That's probably why I don't have the ability to get angry and bitter. I don't forget about

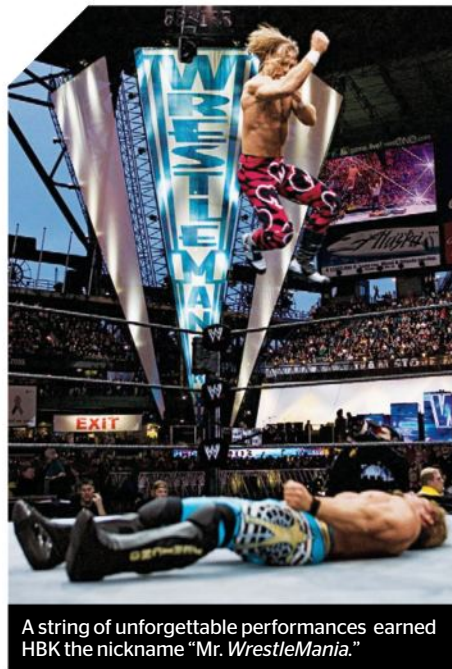
those times. It's like listening to a crying baby on an airplane. Our children are grown up—not all the way—but they don't do that anymore. I'm not that guy who forgets what it was like having a crying baby on a plane, though. It's the same thing as being in the ring. I'm not going to have any more of those phenomenal moments, but I have them in my mind and in my heart. I don't need to experience them again. I'm thankful for that and I'll never be so greedy to think I deserve it every day of the week.

When did you think you were ready to set the bar at 'Mania?

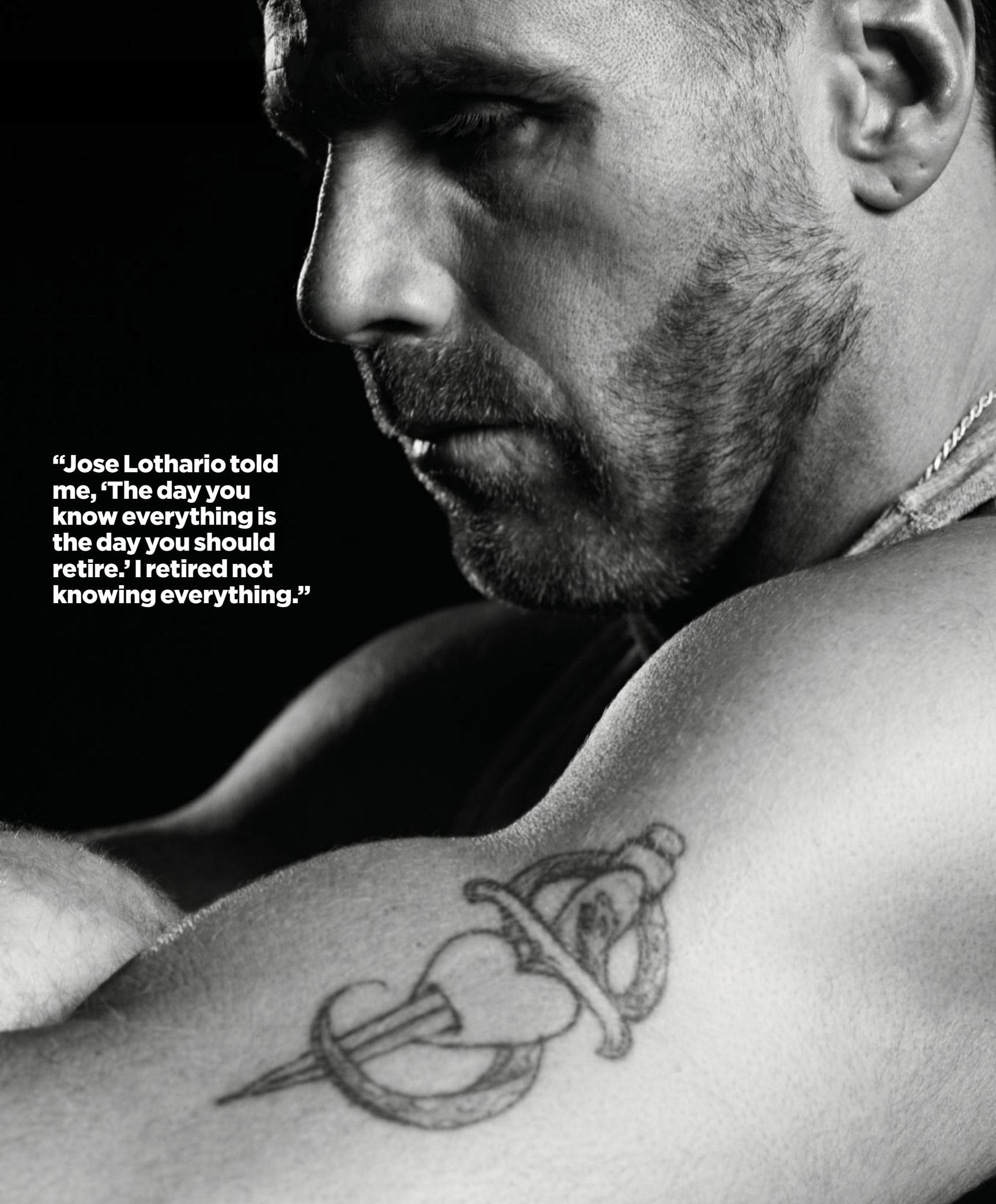
I'm sure it was sooner than I actually had the ability to. You're better in your mind than you are in real life. I remember guys feeling that way. I can look at things in the last match I had and say, "That's phenomenal, but I could've done better." You always keep improving. Jose Lothario told me, "The day you know everything is the day you should retire." I retired not knowing everything. I was secure in my ability and confident in what I could do. But the idea that you know everything is preposterous. The business keeps changing and there's always more that you can do—more that can be refined in everyone.

And as far as your legendary reputation, how do you feel when younger Superstars call you "Mr. *WrestleMania*"?

I'm thankful that the young men and women today are so respectful. I'm very appreciative of that. But I certainly would not blame them to have the attitude—and in fact encourage many of them—of "Old man, what are you doing here? We're going to run you off the show; your time has passed." That's exactly how I looked at it, and it doesn't bother me if they do the same. If they were disrespectful to my face, I may have a problem with that. Even at my worst I don't think I was that bad. But I'm not going to bust somebody's chops for feeling the way I once felt.



A string of unforgettable performances earned HBK the nickname "Mr. *WrestleMania*."

A black and white close-up photograph of a man's face and shoulder. The man has a short beard and is looking down and to the left. A tattoo is visible on his right shoulder. The background is dark.

“Jose Lothario told me, ‘The day you know everything is the day you should retire.’ I retired not knowing everything.”

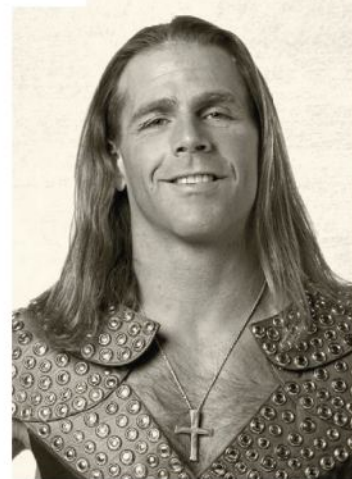


Grandest Yearbook Of Them All

Superstars and Divas leave everything in the ring at *WrestleMania*, making these superlatives seem totally feasible for this year's locker room. Here's a look at who the crop of competitors have to look up to...

Most Likely To: **Steal The Show**

THEN



Shawn Michaels

NOW



Dolph Ziggler

Most Likely To: **Creep Everyone Out**

THEN



The Brood

NOW



The Wyatts

Most Likely To: **Be Carried Out By The Locker Room**

THEN



Bret Hart

NOW



Rey Mysterio

Most Likely To: **Be On A Highlight Reel**

THEN



Jeff Hardy

NOW



Kofi Kingston

Most Likely To: **Get Decked By A Celeb**

THEN



Chris Jericho

NOW



Fandango

Most Likely To: **Be Chauffeured Around**

THEN



JBL

NOW



Alberto Del Rio

Most Likely To: **Beat Up A Legend**

THEN



Edge

NOW



The Shield

Most Likely To: **Pull Double-Duty**

THEN



Yokozuna

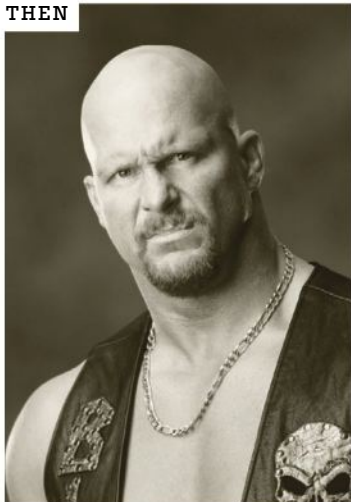
NOW



Cody Rhodes

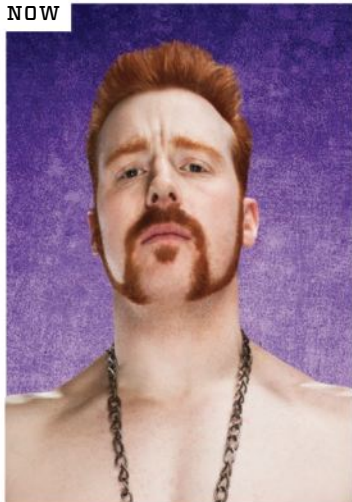
Most Likely To: Not Tap Out

THEN



Stone Cold Steve Austin

NOW



Sheamus

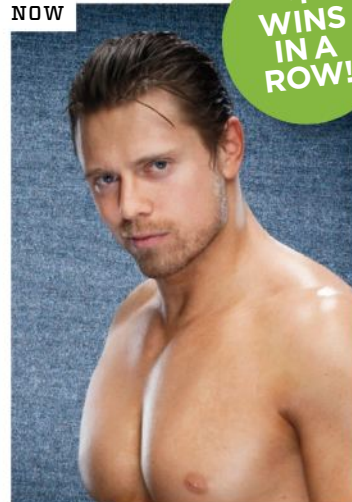
Most Likely To: Start A Streak

THEN



Undertaker

NOW



The Miz

Most Likely To: Lift a Giant

THEN



Hulk Hogan

NOW



Ryback

Most Likely To: Find Something In Their Beard

THEN



Mick Foley

NOW



Daniel Bryan

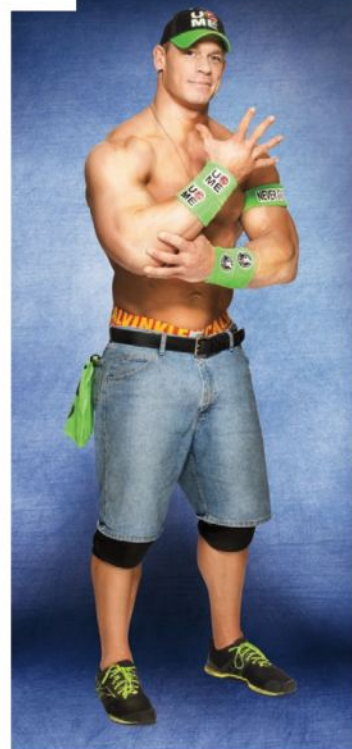
Most Likely To: Stand Tall At The End Of The Night

THEN



Hulk Hogan

NOW



John Cena

Most Likely To: Betray A Friend

THEN



Triple H

NOW



AJ Lee

Most Likely To: Play The Blame Game

THEN



Flair & Heenan

NOW



Lesnar & Heyman

Q&A AJ Lee on...

Making Her Dream A Reality

At *WrestleMania XX*, The Black Widow was sitting in the nosebleeds at MSG. Now she's in the ring causing mayhem with an eye for the main event.

You've said in the past *WrestleMania XX* was the first WWE event you'd ever attended. Can you take us back to the day you got tickets?

It's well known that I didn't grow up with a lot. But that year's *WrestleMania* was in New York and it was right around my birthday so my dad saved up as much as he could because he knew how much I loved WWE. The day tickets went on sale, the two of us waited in line for seven hours with literally all the cash that he had. Of course we could only afford nosebleed seats, but it was still the most amazing thing ever to me. My dad felt bad because they were the worst seats in the house, but I told him, "Don't worry about it, I'll have a better view one day when I'm in the ring."

What moment from that *WrestleMania* sticks out most in your mind? Did everything live up to your expectations?
I remember Undertaker's entrance the most, and how excited I was to see it in person. He had ditched the whole "American Badass" persona and went back to being the undead Undertaker that we all know and love. To actually be in the arena for that moment, to

feel the energy of the crowd, was incredible. Even better, he was against Kane, so there was so much history and intrigue that bolstered the whole match. The event exceeded my expectations, and by the time it was all over, it completely solidified what I wanted to do with my life.

So you knew you wanted to be a WWE Diva. How did you dream about your *WrestleMania* debut going?

At that point, I just wanted to somehow find the way into

WWE. Thinking about making a *WrestleMania* debut seemed so far away and pretty unattainable. I wanted to get there, of course, but I was focused more on cementing all the steps that come before that. Even when I wasn't in tune with the business of WWE and how everything worked, I knew getting on the card was an honor, especially because there were probably so many people fighting for those spots. But so far, I've been a valet, and while that was OK for back then, I'm ready for something bigger now.

You made a huge impact your first time out, what are your thoughts now on your debut alongside Daniel Bryan at *WrestleMania XXVIII*?

Making our entrance, giving Bryan the kiss of death and having the whole thing end in 18 seconds was exhilarating. I loved being out there, loved the crowd, and since the way everything went down was so controversial, I didn't know how it would go over. Looking back now I'm lucky to have had my first *WrestleMania* moment be such a big one. People are going to remember that for years because it was such a shocking way to open the show. It was also the start of something huge for me, and I'm fortunate for the way everything played out. Then the next year at *WrestleMania 29*, I was the only

woman on the show, and I knew because of what happened last year, everyone was waiting to see what I would do next. That was an awesome feeling.

Is it hard to keep focused on the show itself when there's so much going on with all the signings and meet and greets at Fan Axxess?

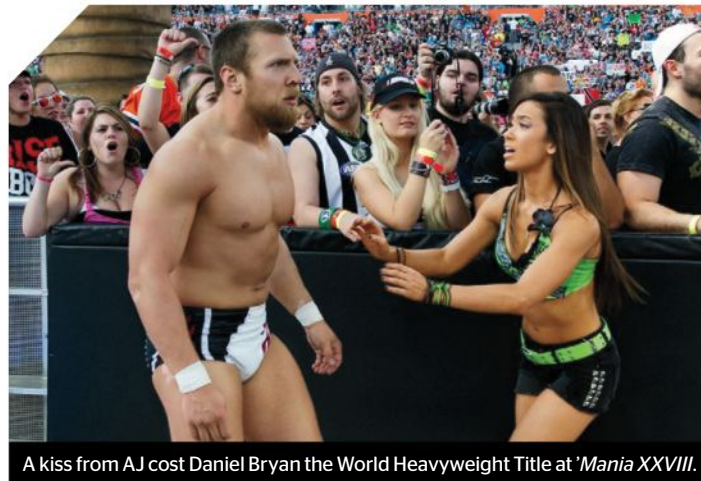
That's the fun part. We're there all week getting to meet fans personally, forming a sort of bond in a way. It's so important to have that time with them because then they'll react to you that much more at *WrestleMania*. Dolph Ziggler, Big E Langston and I were a little family at that time, and there were people who were on our side and cheering for us even though we weren't too popular with the WWE Universe.

Is there anyone in particular you have your eye on to make a *WrestleMania* moment with?

If I had to choose, I would 1,000 percent pick Stephanie McMahon. I'd love to convince her somehow to get back in the ring. People react very strongly to me and people react very strongly to her. I don't think there are any other ladies on the roster that could stir the pot as much as a match between the two of us would. It would be awesome to have a Divas match cause as much buzz as a Superstar main event.

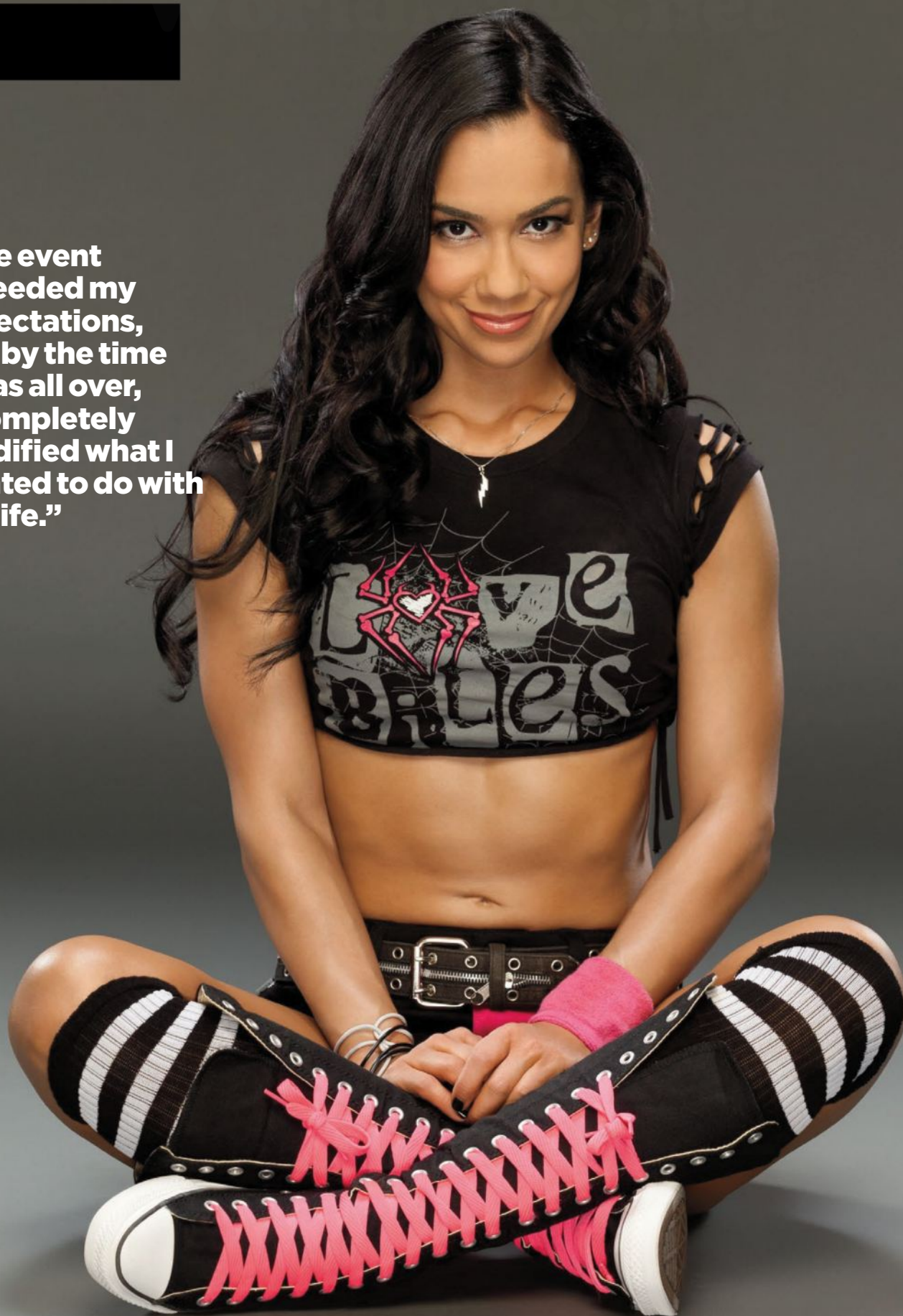
Finally, the Divas division is thriving and you're sitting at the top. Are you hoping these new changes will reflect at *WrestleMania*?

I want to make everything better for all of us, not just for myself. Right now I think I've done everything I can for me, so I'm now focusing on how I can improve the division overall. If there could be a Divas match that people really care about, a match where people are really invested in the outcome, well, that's my goal, for that to happen. I know we can get there this year, and I'm hoping that I will be at the front when that happens.



A kiss from AJ cost Daniel Bryan the World Heavyweight Title at 'Mania XXVIII.

“The event exceeded my expectations, and by the time it was all over, it completely solidified what I wanted to do with my life.”



What's The Best Arena In WrestleMania History?

The biggest venues have hosted *WrestleMania*, but what is its *ultimate* setting? We created a bracket sorted by total attendance of 16 venues *WM* called home—minus *'Mania's* first home, Madison Square Garden.

ARENAS

1. Rosemont Horizon, Chicago, IL; WM2, WM13, WM22

Although it's now called Allstate Arena, the Rosemont Horizon was—and is—WWE's go-to spot when visiting The Second City. Alongside MSG, it's the only venue to have hosted *WrestleMania* three times!

8. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, NV; WMIX

A staple of the Las Vegas strip, Caesars Palace has hosted shows by legends Elton John, Frank Sinatra and Dolly Parton. It also saw Bobby Heenan ride a camel backward at *WMIX*. So he's in good company.

4. LA Memorial Sports Arena, Los Angeles, CA; WM2 and WMVII

It wasn't supposed to host *WMVII*, but thanks to the hostile main event, WWE switched the venue from the outdoor LA Memorial Coliseum to the LA Sports Arena, home of the flashy "Showtime" Lakers.

5. STAPLES Center, Los Angeles, CA; WM21

WrestleMania went Hollywood in 2005, but that doesn't mean Superstars wore more scarves than Johnny Depp. WWE broke a STAPLES attendance record, with a bevy of Hollywood's finest in the crowd.

3. Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim, CA; WMXII and WM2000

The biggest bout in Shawn Michaels's career warranted his most jaw-dropping entrance. Cue Arrowhead Pond, site of *WrestleManias XII* and *2000*, as HBK sailed down from the building's roof on a zipline.

6. Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, PA; WMXV

Only two and a half miles from the World Famous ECW Arena, Philly's Wells Fargo Center is home to the 76ers and Flyers, often called the "Broadstreet Bullies" for their bruising play.

2. Trump Plaza, Atlantic City, NJ; WMIV and WMV

Donald Trump has a colorful history in WWE, and so does Trump Plaza! Hosting two *WrestleManias* in a row, the high-rollers casino in AC has seen more than its fair share of gambling in gold.

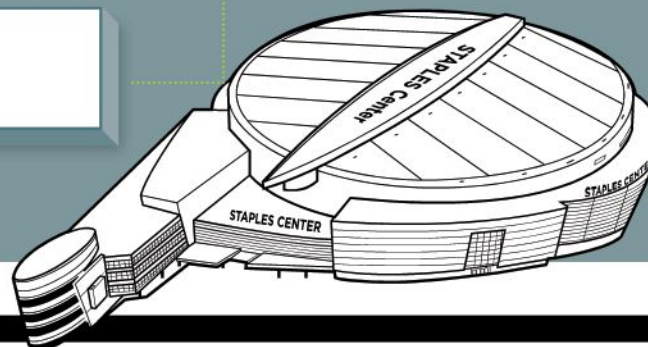
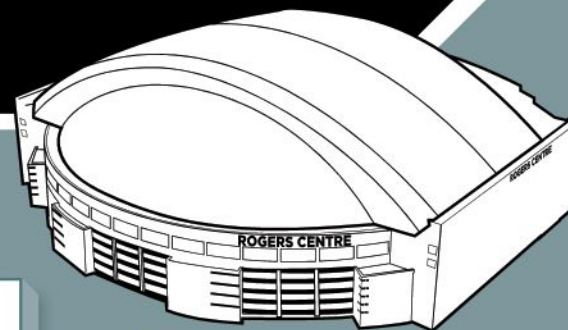
7. TD Garden, Boston, MA; WMXIV

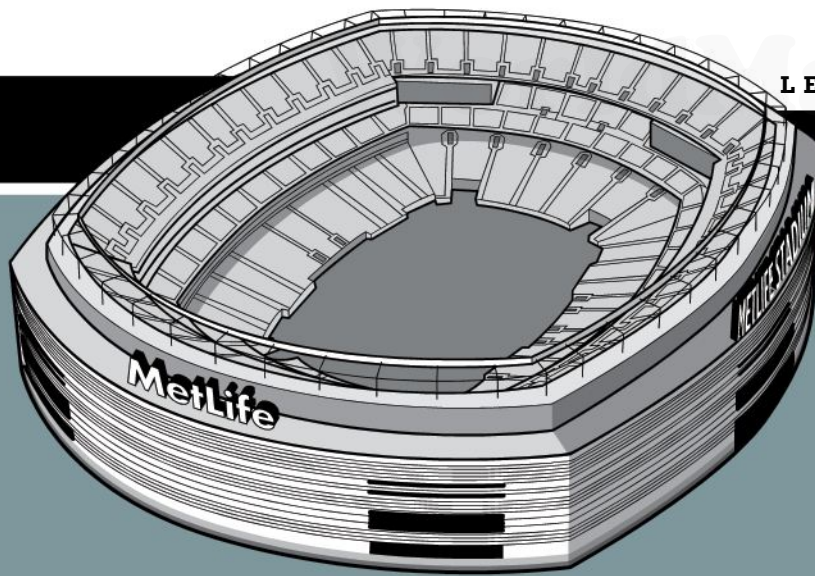
"The Garden," formerly named FleetCenter, is a frequent stop for historic WWE events! And a place with so many banners made for a natural fit for the high-stakes atmosphere of *WrestleMania*.

EXTREME EIGHT!

FATAL FOUR!

TERRIBLE TWO!





135

Approx. total attendance (in thousands) of the *WrestleManias* hosted by Toronto's Rogers Centre.

FOOTBALL/BASEBALL STADIUMS

1. Rogers Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada; *WMVI* and *WMX8*

Edge wanted to become a Superstar after watching *WMVI* inside the SkyDome. But 12 years later, that same building's crowd cheered so loud that Hollywood Hogan brought back The Hulkster of old.

8. University of Phoenix Stadium, Phoenix, AZ; *WMXXVI*

Two years after hosting the greatest upset in Super Bowl history when the undefeated New England Patriots lost, this stadium served as the last venue for Shawn Michaels last match.

4. Ford Field, Detroit, MI; *WM23*

Motor City's Ford Field may not be Mr. McMahon's favorite place—he was on the bad end of a pair of hair clippers—but WWE broke yet another attendance record in the home of the Detroit Lions in 2003.

5. Sun Life Stadium, Miami, FL; *WMXXVIII*

No venue had closer ties to a *WrestleMania* main event than Sun Life Stadium, where Miami's own The Rock squared off against John Cena in the stadium where The Great One played college football.

3. MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ; *WM29*

When *WM* returned home to the NY/NJ area, the production team went all out, creating a mini NYC with replicas of NY monuments. It was like the end of *Planet of the Apes*—only with fewer monkeys.

6. Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium, Orlando, FL; *WMXXIV*

Orlando's stadium opened in 1936, making it the oldest venue to host *WM*. It rained minutes before the show started, but stopped, proving Mother Nature is the real "Dirtiest Player in the Game."

2. Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, MI; *WMIII*

As one of the largest stadiums in the country, the Pontiac Silverdome is known for more than its original fiberglass roof. On March 29, 1987, *WMIII*—with ring carts!—broke the indoor attendance record there.

7. Reliant Stadium, Houston, TX; *The 25th Anniversary of WM*

Despite suffering damage during Hurricane Ike in September 2008, Reliant Stadium recovered in time to host *The 25th Anniversary of WrestleMania* nearly half a year later.



Tweet us your bracket winner:
@WWE Magazine!
We'll name the victor in an upcoming issue!

Q&A Daniel Bryan on...

Watching From The Indies

The Flying Goat discusses what 'Mania week means to the Superstars of tomorrow and why he insists on being the star of The Show of Shows.

When you were performing in the minor leagues, what was your perspective around *WrestleMania* season?

You see it as a barometer of how the industry is doing. That's what I would look at it as. I would look at *WrestleMania* and think, "OK, how many people went this year; how interested are people in wrestling; how interested are people in this sport?" That's what it was to me. These are the biggest matches and this is the biggest show of the year in the entire world. So we see what's the state of the industry.

WWE takes over a location for a week during *WrestleMania*, bringing in a lot of companies trying to capitalize on that interest in wrestling. Have you ever been part of that?

Yeah, Ring of Honor was the first company that really did that. We did two shows in 2006 in Chicago, and the thought was, "OK, we have this awesome fanbase in the area. If we can convince a portion of them to come to our show, we can expose them to this product and show them that we can produce a different style. Even though it's not as spectacular as far as the production, the grittiness will appeal to people."

It was mostly people who already heard of Ring of Honor, maybe ordered some DVDs, or because of their geographical location weren't ever able to come to any shows but they were coming to *WrestleMania*. So while they're in town for *WrestleMania* week, the hope was they're going to check out Ring of Honor for the first time.

Is the idea to counter-program on those shows?

You can't go the complete opposite way with *WrestleMania* because every year, there's always some sort of fantastic match that is because of the stage and the setting and all that kind of stuff. Those Shawn Michaels vs. Undertaker matches, you can't do anything comparable to that on the indie scene. You just can't. The scope, the history, all of that, you can't match that. What you can do is match some of the excitement throughout the rest of the show as far as it being action-packed.

You've competed at two *WrestleManias* and been with WWE for four total. So when do you start thinking about The Grandest Stage of Them All? I am someone who thinks about it all year, I really start thinking

about it after *SummerSlam*. To me there are two big pay-per-views that I want to be on: *WrestleMania* and *SummerSlam*. *SummerSlam* is a very personal thing for me because I love the show. It's a perfect mid-year point. It's OK if you have small things in between, but you want the big thing to take place at *WrestleMania*. Most times that doesn't happen, but you want that spot on the show. So you start thinking, "OK what can I do at *WrestleMania*, and how can I make sure that what I'm doing isn't played out." You've got to make sure that's not the case.

What do you do to ensure that? Is it just coming up with ideas and kicking ass in the gym?

It's always about performance in the ring. So it's making sure that I don't ever take the easy way out and making sure that what I'm doing out there isn't getting stale. We're doing matches twice a week on *Raw* and *SmackDown*, doing things that keep people excited, because if you go out there and do the same stuff and you're competing in long matches twice a week and you're wrestling long matches at pay-per-views, you're doing the same stuff and people are going to get sick of it. That goes for your wrestling and for your personality that you need to change things up. So

that means making sure that I'm constantly evolving so people aren't getting sick of the Daniel Bryan they're seeing on TV.

Now your match is one of the most anticipated ones at this year's show. How does that change your preparation for the event this year?

Every year you hope to have something that's going to be special. That's what I'm hoping for this year. This is the time of year when everyone comes back, so the spots for the show are very limited. I want an opportunity to go out there and steal the show this year. As an example, the last several years, Undertaker's matches have stolen the show. I want people after *WrestleMania* to say, "The star of the show was Daniel Bryan and we can't wait to see him all year." Or even if it's not me, one thing that I liked about The Deadman's match last year was that it was against CM Punk. He really did a fantastic job. Undertaker was the star of the show, but CM Punk was right behind him. We need our current stars, when everyone comes in for the big show. The WWE Universe needs to leave thinking that these guys that we're going with year-round are the shining lights of the show, so they can't wait to see what happens next month.



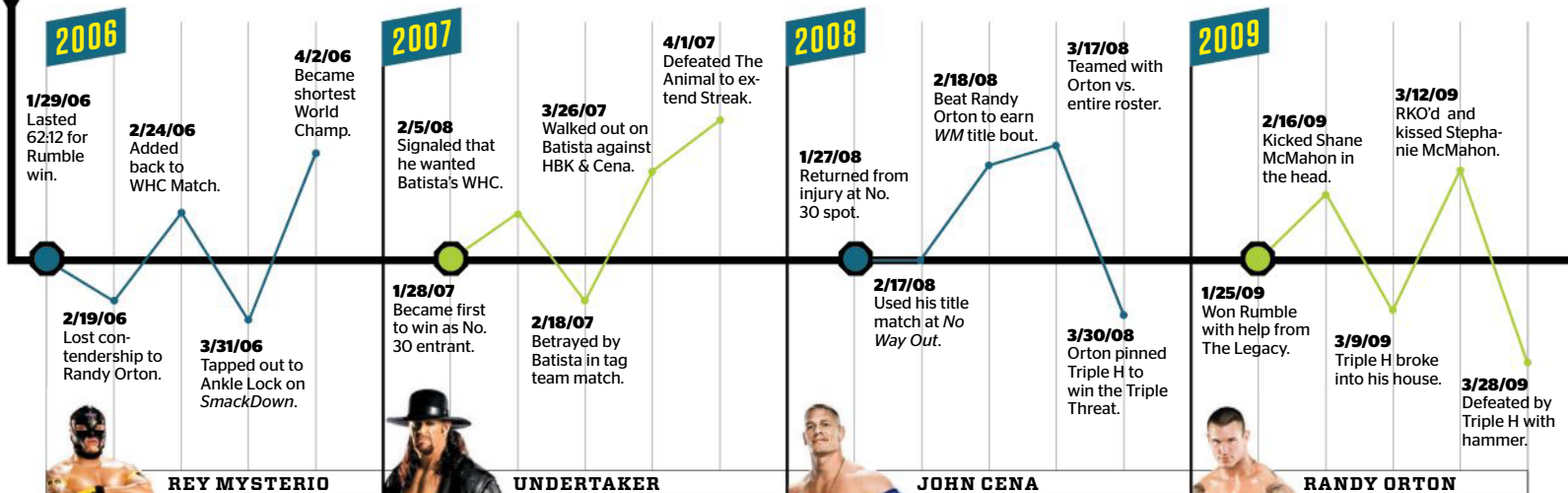
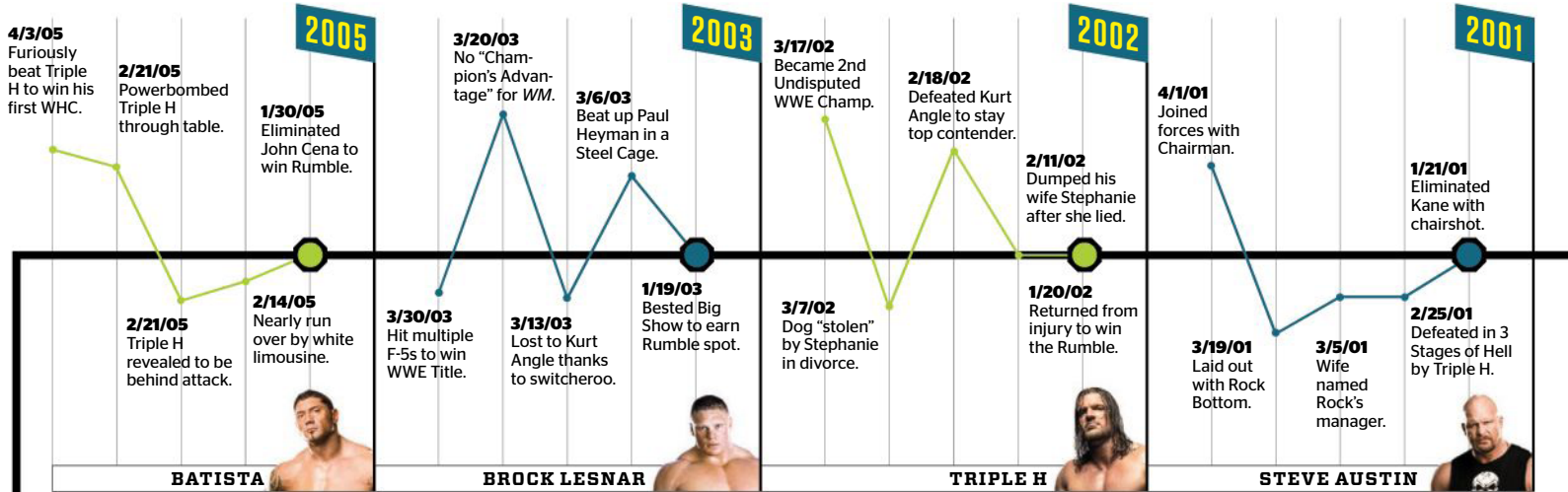
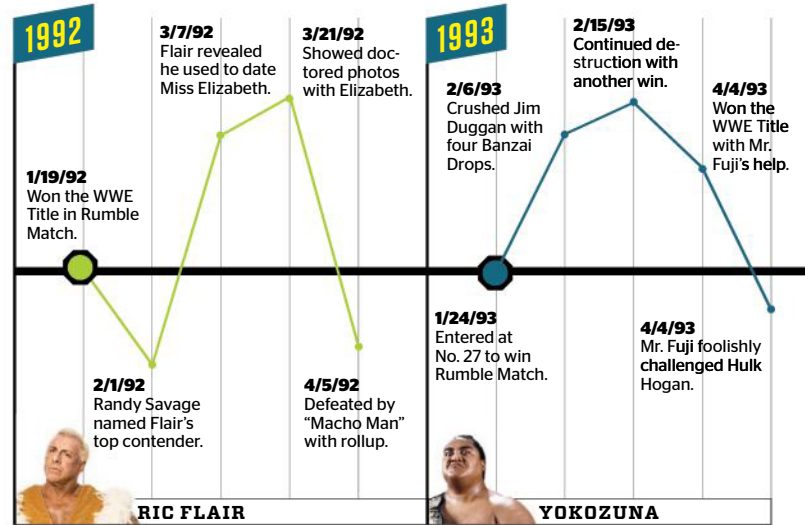
Daniel Bryan's long journey to *WrestleMania* paid off last year with a victory.

“These are the biggest matches and this is the biggest show of the year in the entire world. So we see what’s the state of the industry.”



The Over-The-Top Effect!

Not all Royal Rumble Match victors ride a smooth wave of momentum into the main event. Track the ups and downs of their journeys to 'Mania.



1994

1/31/94
Both given a *WrestleMania* title bout.

1/22/94
Eliminated each other simultaneously in Rumble.



BRET HART & LEX LUGER

3/20/94
Hart defeated by brother Owen at WM.

3/20/94
Hart carried from the ring after victory.

3/20/94
Luger lost to Yokozuna by DQ.

1995

2/20/95
Recruited Sycho Sid to be bodyguard.

1/22/95
Became first to win Rumble as No. 1 entrant.



SHAWN MICHAELS

3/6/95
Showed strength vs. Bulldog.

3/22/95
Proved size wasn't a factor against Bundy.

4/2/95
Couldn't beat former BFF Diesel.

1996

2/18/96
Defeated Owen Hart to retain contendership.

1/21/96
Eliminated Diesel to win 2nd Rumble.



SHAWN MICHAELS

2/19/96
Roddy Piper made Iron Man Match

3/25/96
Kept momentum vs. Leif Cassidy.

3/31/96
Clinched WWE Championship after an hour.

2000

3/27/00
Teamed with new ally Mr. McMahon.

3/13/00
Bested Big Show to retain contendership.

1/23/00
Low-bridged Big Show to win Rumble.



THE ROCK

4/2/00
Betrayed by Mr. McMahon, lost to Triple H.

2/27/00
Lost to Big Show at No Way Out.

3/22/99
Received beer bath from Austin.

3/28/99
Austin beats "Corporate champ."

MR. McMAHON

2/22/99
Dissension formed in The Corporation.

2/14/99
Beaten by Austin in a Steel Cage.



1999

1/24/99
Tossed Stone Cold out with assist by Rock.

3/29/98
The Austin Era began vs. HBK.

3/28/98
Trapped in the ring ropes and mocked by DX.

STEVE AUSTIN

1/19/98
Flipped off WM guest referee Mike Tyson.

1/18/98
Eliminated The Rock to win the Rumble.



1998

3/23/97
Did not submit to the Sharpshooter.

2/17/97
"Accidentally" cost Hart his title.

2/16/97
Lost a Fatal 4-Way to Bret Hart.



STEVE AUSTIN

1997

1/20/97
DQ vs. Undertaker before title match.

1/19/97
Snuck back into Rumble Match.

2010

2/22/10
Speared Chris Jericho on Raw.

3/28/10
Lost, but Speared Y2J off a table.

3/12/10
KO'd by Y2J on "Highlight Reel."

EDGE

1/31/10
Returned from injury to win Rumble.

2/26/10
Teased by Y2J saying "Spear! Spear! Spear!"



2011

1/31/11
Partied with Ricardo to celebrate.

1/30/11
Outlasted 39 to win largest Rumble.



ALBERTO DEL RIO

3/18/11
Lost to Christian in Steel Cage Match.

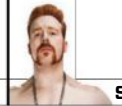
3/25/11
Lost to reunited Edge & Christian.

4/3/11
Car destroyed after he lost to Edge.

2012

2/19/12
Attacked World Champ Daniel Bryan.

1/29/12
Brogue Kicked Chris Jericho to win Rumble.



SHEAMUS

3/23/12
Teamed with CM Punk vs. Bryan & Miz.

4/1/12
Won World Title in 18 seconds.

3/2/12
Built extensive winning streak.

2013

1/27/13
Entered at No. 19 and tossed out Ryback.

2/17/13
Pinned in a Six-Man Tag against The Shield.



JOHN CENA

2/25/13
Defended contendership vs. CM Punk.

4/7/13
Redeemed himself with win vs. Rock.

3/18/13
Received Rock Bottom on Raw.

Q&A Fandango on...

Making A Dream Debut

The only Superstar to debut victoriously at *'Mania*, Fandango dances around no topic, from Chris Jericho all the way to "ChaChaLaLa!"

What would a young Fandango say if he heard that he'd win his first match in WWE at *WrestleMania* against Chris Jericho, no less?

Actually, being a fan of Chris's growing up kind of helped me in terms of my win at *WrestleMania* because I knew a lot of his moves and what he did in the ring. It's an advantage in a way, like a baseball or football team scouting their opposition. Fifteen-year-old me probably wouldn't believe 29-year-old me. But I would tell him to keep following your dream. Don't take no for an answer. You'll hear a lot of "no"s because you're a skinny, little kid. I would tell him just to enjoy the ride because it's going to get cool.

You had been on WWE programming for a few weeks before the show, but this was your first in-ring action. How worried were you that this first impression would make or break Fandango?

It was like when you see a huge trailer leading up to a big movie debut. I had a lot to live up to. We had the big vignettes, and then I had to go out there against a future Hall of Famer in Chris Jericho. It was a lot to build up to.

And what about the pressure of becoming the first person to debut—and win—at *WrestleMania*?

When you make your debut at the biggest event of the year, you have a lot of people in your ear, trying to give you advice and trying to get you to settle down. I was told not to over-think things and to relax. Being the egotistical megalomaniac that I am, though, with the confidence that I always carry, I brought that to *'Mania*. So I wouldn't say I was too frazzled.

What were your interactions like with Chris Jericho about the match? Did he have any words for you afterward?

Of course I was excited to wrestle someone I looked up to. I remember his debut in WWE back in 1999 and being really pumped to see that. So I was really excited. He was happy with our match. I thanked him, because he helped me out a lot. He was such an established personality on TV, and if I went out there and wrestled someone else who was unknown, it wouldn't have worked as well. It wasn't quite Andre/Hogan passing the torch, but it felt like that to me.

Who was the first person you talked with when your match was over?

We had our match, and when I got to the back, I went right up to Mr. McMahon and said, "Thank you." So he said, "Congratulations," and then he smiled.

When did it really hit you that you made your debut on *The Grandest Stage of Them All*?

It kind of soaked in when we took a couple of days off. We did the *Raw* after *'Mania*, then the *SmackDown* in Boston. I went home for five or six days—we got those days off. Then we went to Europe for a couple of weeks. When we

got to Europe, with the whole European fanbase doing the "Fandango-ing" thing the night after *WrestleMania*, I was getting the crowd reaction over there.

Speaking of "Fandango-ing"... take us back to that moment. "ChaChaLaLa" found its way to every nook and cranny of the WWE Universe. What was your immediate reaction?

If you watch that show back, I had just gotten my butt kicked for three minutes straight all over the ring and ringside area. I was hurting pretty bad when I was lying on the mat there, but I grabbed the microphone and said, "Fandango." The people started going crazy. It didn't really set in for a few days until I checked my Twitter account and saw everyone was "Fandango-ing."

After debuting at the biggest event of the year on *The Grandest Stage*, is everything easier now by comparison?

I like high-pressure situations. I always have. I knew in the back of my head how important this really was and how it was detrimental this was going to be in terms of my career. And I didn't overwhelm myself with that thinking, but it ended up fueling my training for the match and brought out the best in me. Being a huge wrestling fan growing up, it's definitely surreal for me to take in. This company believes in me. I believe in myself. I believe in my abilities and the way I speak.

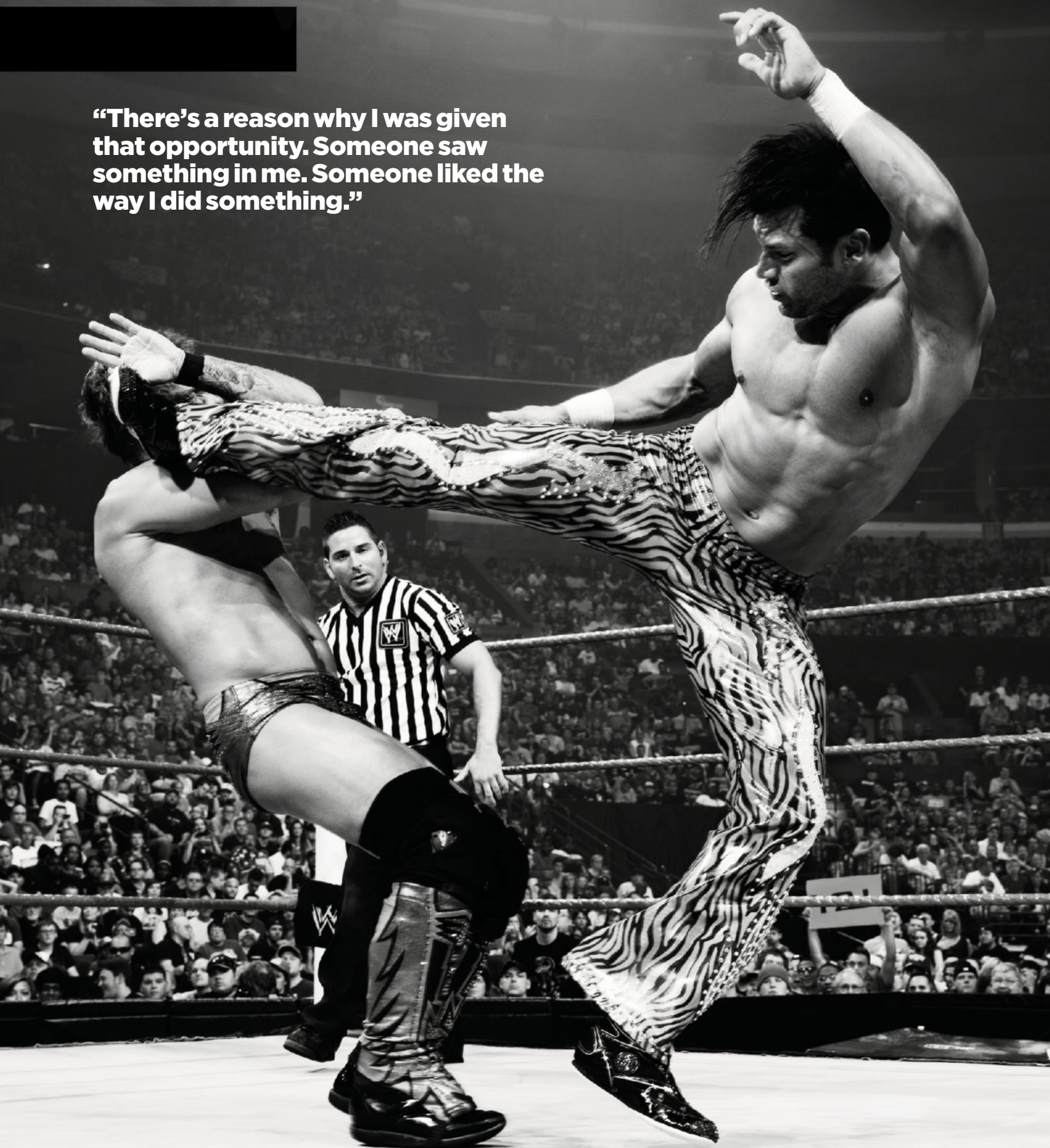
So what advice would you give for a Superstar making their debut at *The Show of Shows*?

There's a reason why you're given this opportunity. There's a reason why I was given that opportunity. It's because Someone believed in me. Someone saw something in me or liked the way I did something. Don't be too cocky, but be confident in yourself. There's a reason why you're getting this opportunity, so embrace it and enjoy it, because it's something you'll never forget.



Fandango danced his way to a 1-0 record in his *WrestleMania* debut.

“There’s a reason why I was given that opportunity. Someone saw something in me. Someone liked the way I did something.”



30 Best Entrances On The Grandest Stage!

The crowd is larger. The TitanTron set is bigger. The lights are brighter. And the ramp is much longer. If your name is on the card at *WrestleMania*, it's your duty to make a lasting impression before the bell even rings.

30



Chris Jericho,
WMXXVIII

The brilliant lights abruptly went out, as only a light-up jacket illuminated the stadium in a powerful moment.

29



Randy Savage,
WMVII

The Macho Man made an entrance befitting royalty, being carried to ringside (with Sherri) by some loyal subjects.

28



Roddy Piper,
WM

While the NYC crowd booed until they were hoarse, Piper smugly strutted, apathetic of how anyone felt.

27



Andre The Giant,
WMIII

Ring carts deserve a mention, and none was more awe-inspiring than Andre waving to Detroit's furious fans.

26



Hulk Hogan, *WM*

The first *WrestleMania* had a big-fight feel, especially with Hulk Hogan and Mr. T psyching each other up.

25



The Shield, *WM29*

The Shield weaved through a sea of more than 80,000—a great introduction to The Grandest Stage of Them All.

24



Stone Cold Steve Austin, *WMX-Seven*

In a rare peek into the locker room, the WWE Universe saw an angry Bionic Redneck glaring into a mirror.

23



Undertaker, *WM29*

With a river of lost souls reaching at his boots, The Deadman stalked to the ring in one of the creepiest entrances ever seen in WWE history—even for him!

22



John Cena, *The 25th Anniv. of WM*

The Champ is often imitated, but never duplicated, as illustrated by the imposters flanking the entrance ramp.

21



CM Punk, *WM29*

CM Punk's irreverence was at an all-time high—and we loved it!—as he posed with Undertaker's urn and Living Colour played live.

20



The Miz, *WMXXVII*

After assuring the WWE Universe they could "hate him now" with a career highlight reel, Miz busted through a set of bubble letters.

19



Kane, *WMXV*

Pete Rose—disguised as the San Diego Chicken—tried to ruin Kane's entrance, but The Big Red Monster turned him into extra crispy.

18



MVP,
WM23

Cheerleaders and a set of fireballs brought MVP to Detroit's Ford Field, proving don't hate the player—or his style.

17



Trish Stratus,
WMX8

Trish Stratus delivered some Stratusfaction to her hometown Toronto, draping the Canadian flag over her shoulders.

16



The Rock, WMXXVIII
The Miami crowd had a "Good Feeling" after Flo Rida's stunning performance before The Great One entered his hometown stadium and electrified the WWE Universe.

15



LOD, WMXIV
LOD's shocking return—with Sunny!—signaled a new era in the decorated team's prestigious grappling history.

14



Lex Luger, WMIX
The Narcissist flexed in front of mirrors—each equipped with sparklers—hiding a group of gorgeous women.

13



Ric Flair, WMXXIV
No one styled or profiled like Naitch, and this entrance reached new levels of both with his glorious robe and pyro.

12



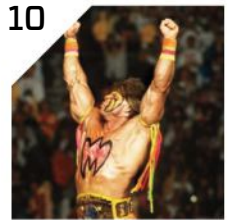
Hollywood Hogan, WMX8
Nostalgia reigned supreme as Hollywood Hogan strutted to the ring for the first time at WM in nine years.

11



Undertaker, WMXX
Paul Bearer's return only aided 'Taker's awesome entrance, as he walked through a tunnel of torches.

10



The Ultimate Warrior, WMVI
Short, but the intensity of and the ovation for Warrior's WMVI sprint is in a class of its own.

9



Rhythm and Blues, WMVI
Honky Tonk Man & Greg Valentine cruised to ringside in a pink Caddy—straight out of a Barbie playset.

8



Triple H, WM21
Motörhead warned the STAPLES Center—and Batista—it was time to play The Game, as Triple H rose to the stage.

7



Shawn Michaels, The 25th Anniversary of WM
"Mr. WrestleMania" countered Undertaker's dark and hellish entrance from Death Valley by floating from the "heavens" and wearing white, proving no one outdoes HBK when it comes to the WrestleMania stage.

6



Rey Mysterio, WM22
In traditional Aztec head-dress—and played in by fellow San Diegoans P.O.D.—Mysterio paid tribute to his native 619.

5



Edge, WMXXIV
Though he lost, The Rated-R Superstar defied 'Taker's Streak with his rock-star-worthy fireworks display.

4



Triple H, WMXXVII
Wearing warrior regalia as Metallica's "For Whom The Bell Tolls" played, Triple H broke free from a group of shields.

3



John Cena, WM23
John Cena crashed a Mustang through a plate of glass before defending his WWE Title vs. Shawn Michaels.

2



Undertaker, WMIX
A chariot and a live vulture sent shivers down everyone's spine—even Giant Gonzales's ridiculously long one.

1



Shawn Michaels, WMXII
After manager Jose Lothario entered to Michaels's music, The Heartbreak Kid road a zipline to the ring.

Q&A Rey Mysterio on...

Making A Grand Entrance

The most influential luchador in history flies in to talk about his famous gear, his unforgettable legacy, and what it takes to make a 'Mania moment.

You've always made a statement with your gear at The Show of Shows. How do you decide what you're going to wear?

The process of how everything comes together changes each year because it depends on what type of spirit or mood I'm in. I think of it almost as I do one of my tattoos. Once I start getting a feel for the event, find out who I'm going to be working with, I begin visualizing how I want my gear to look in my mind. Then it's straight to the drawing board, where I begin trying to perfect the design. When it feels right, when I can see myself in it, then we start bringing it to life. Over the years, I've had several favorite designs because each one means something different to me. Two that stand out in my mind are the Rey Mysterio: Captain America, and if I had to choose a favorite, Rey Mysterio: Avatar. That one came out exactly how I pictured it. It was perfect.

What usually happens to your gear after the show?

Most are all in my closet, and they haven't been worn since their debuts. Each one holds a lot of memories for me, and I do my best to keep them in mint condition.

I will, however, lend them to the company for display when *WrestleMania* rolls around. The fans are always excited to check out my masks up close at Axxess. If I ever do need them, they are there for me to wear again. My plan is for my family to have them for generations to come.

What's one set of gear that you've wanted to recreate, but haven't been able to yet?

Definitely Aquaman. I get a lot of inspiration from comic-book

characters, but I've been holding back on this one because I'm hoping that a movie or something will come out soon, and bring it back into the mainstream. I would want people to recognize the gear, and kids who aren't familiar with the old Aquaman to at least have an understanding of a new one. I have the whole thing already planned out in my head. The gold chest piece with gills would shimmer, and I would pair it with green pants and matching gloves. The whole thing would be like a wet-suit type of material. Maybe I could even somehow incorporate water into my entrance to really do the character justice.

Speaking of entrances, it's not just your gear that members of the WWE Universe remember for years to come. How much planning goes into executing the perfect walk to the ring?

For me it's the beginning of the year. I'm thinking about *WrestleMania* all year long, of course, but during January, it starts to fall more directly into my line of sight. And then it's a work in progress. Sometimes my entrance will change two or three times before we settle on the right one, one that feels right for that year. And I don't just mean little details will change, I mean the whole thing will change.

Your live P.O.D. entrance at *WrestleMania 22* in Chicago is one of the most memorable in history. How did it all come together so perfectly?

That was a big collaboration. From WWE to the music industry to the contracting of the band, to the creator of "Booyaka 619," to the members of P.O.D.—we all worked together to make it happen. The wild thing is, I went to high school with what is now P.O.D.; we grew up together. We didn't really cross paths, and then inevitably went in two different directions. Who would have thought 20 years down the road we would meet again in this way. It's pretty incredible to see them now as rockstars, and me as a WWE Superstar. I feel like if we talked about it while we were kids, it wouldn't have happened.

As someone whom we'd argue has had plenty of "*WrestleMania* Moments" for himself, what do you make of that term?

A *WrestleMania* moment has got to be one of the biggest highlights of your career, or it isn't one. My moment came at *WrestleMania 22* in Chicago. Everything that night was a moment for me. My outfit, my entrance—it all felt electric. And then, of course, winning the World Heavyweight Championship in a Triple Threat match against Randy Orton and Kurt Angle was amazing. The stars aligned that night, for me, and I think going in, even my fans knew that it was going to be a special night for Rey Mysterio.

Do you think there's ever too much thought on trying to create a *WrestleMania* moment?

It's definitely something that happens naturally, but it can't unless you set yourself up set up for success. Your gear needs to shock, your entrance needs to wow, your match needs to steal the show. Everything needs to fall into place, including the crowd's reaction. As a WWE Superstar, if you can do that...well, I can't think of a bigger success.



Rey Mysterio overcame the odds to become World Champion at WM22.

“A WrestleMania moment has got to be one of the biggest highlights of your career, or it isn’t a WrestleMania moment.”



Through A Different Lens

WrestleMania moments stand the test of time, becoming the cornerstones of highlight reels and Hall of Fame speeches. But to get ready for WMXXX, we re-filtered these Show of Shows classics.



The Nature Boy's legendary career came to an end with a Superkick at WMXXIV.



9

Times Hulk Hogan has won in California. Hulkster is 9-1-1 in televised bouts in the Golden State, losing only to Sting.

King Kong Bundy brought a tough challenge in the first Steel Cage Match in *WrestleMania* history, from the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena—but Hulkamania ran wild.



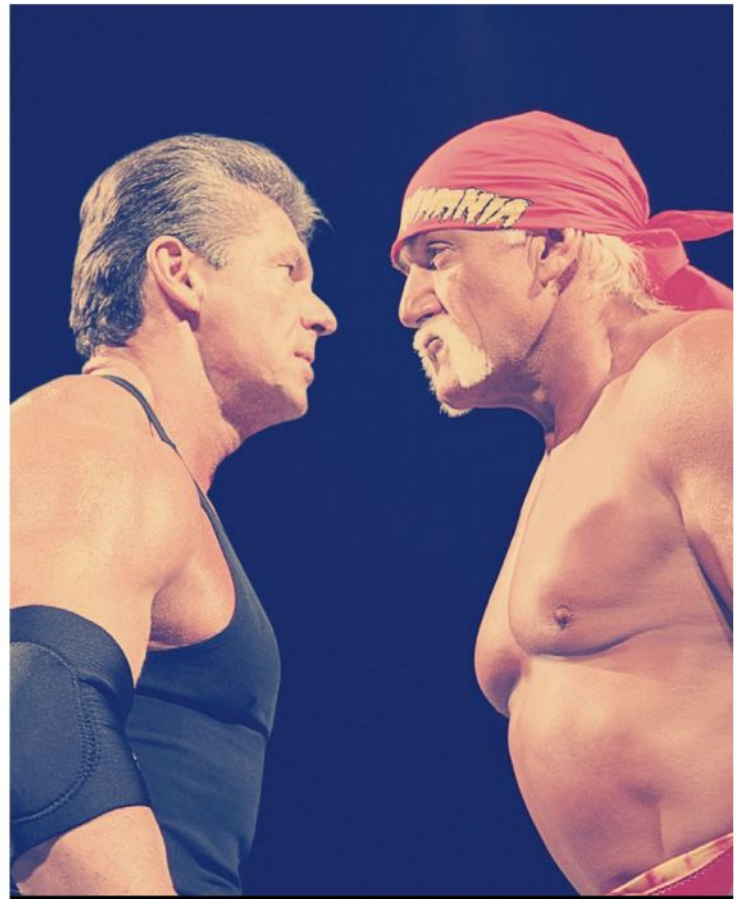
Randy Savage stood tall at *WMIV*.



The Miz made a grand entrance at *WMXXVII* with the WWE Championship before silencing his doubters with a win.



New champion **Undertaker** clutched the World Title at *WrestleMania 23*.



Bitter rivals **Mr. McMahon** and **Hulk Hogan** stared each other down at *WMXIX*.



Pride took center stage as **Batista** and **John Cena** fought over top-dog status, and the WWE Championship, at *WrestleMania XXVI*.

60

Winning percentage for Batista at The Show of Shows, for a 3-2 record, with losses to Undertaker & John Cena.



Shawn Michaels battled through injury to defend his WWE Championship against **Stone Cold Steve Austin**.



Sheamus celebrated after winning in 18 seconds.



HBK learned about gravity at WMX.



The Rock gazed out upon the WWE Universe in his hometown of Miami before defeating **John Cena** at WMXXVIII.



The Ultimate Warrior battled **Randy Savage** in a Career-Threatening Match.



Mr. T and **Roddy Piper** traded blows at *WrestleMania 2* inside Nassau Coliseum.

Q&A Steve Austin on...

Going for Broke At 'Mania

The Texas Rattlesnake spits the Stone Cold truth on what really happened before his last match and what he forgot to bring to *WrestleMania XV*.

After years of hard work, the "Austin era" kicked off at *WrestleMania XIV* against Shawn Michaels. Can you describe how it feels to have the torch passed, so to speak?

It was a real cluster you-know-what leading up to the match because Shawn Michaels was in a bad place particularly with his back. Mentally, he was pretty frazzled and not in a good space in his head. He'll be the first to admit that. We didn't know if the match was going to make it to the ring. Once we got out there, the match was mediocre to say the least. The dynamics of our chemistry just didn't work in that match. When I was celebrating with Mike Tyson, I was proud that I won my first title, but I thought that on a *WrestleMania* stage, we had pretty much stunk the joint out.

You couldn't enjoy it?

No I didn't enjoy it, I knew that we could've done better. I know that you're only as good as your last match. I'm WWE Champion and I'm going through the motions celebrating with Tyson. The first thing I said with Mr. McMahon was, "Man, that match was terrible." He said, "Don't worry about it. It'll all be good from here on out."

You never had an extravagant attire or entrance at the event. Why was that important to you to stick to your guns?

Your entrance is your entrance for going to do battle. It's like going into the Coliseum as a gladiator. That's *WrestleMania*: the biggest stage you can get on all year and maybe in your life. It's one thing to make a *WrestleMania* card. It's a whole different thing to main-event a one. When you enter to do battle, you have to come out with boldness. I'll never

forget *WrestleMania XV* because I was right in the middle of going through a divorce and I had forgotten my damn black ring vest at home in San Antonio. I had to go out and wrestle The Rock and, because I didn't have my black vest, I had to go out in one of my T-shirts. I felt like a complete idiot walking to the ring because with my vest, that was part of my outfit and my armor. Black leg brace, black boots, black trunks, black tape, but I didn't have my vest. It was like I didn't have part of my swagger going out there. All the things in my whoop-ass kit were there except my black vest. It really threw me off my mental state just as far as the entrance went, but of course we rocked and rolled and tore the house down. But entrance is everything; you want to make a good impression the first time anyone sees you—particularly at a *WrestleMania*.

How close was your last match, against The Rock at *WrestleMania XIX* in Seattle, to not even happening?

It was just kind of a period where I was drinking a damn lot of alcohol and not drinking enough water. And I was drinking a hell of a lot of caffeine in the form of, straight up, a couple of pots of coffee and those caffeine sports drinks. So it was just a case of running hard,

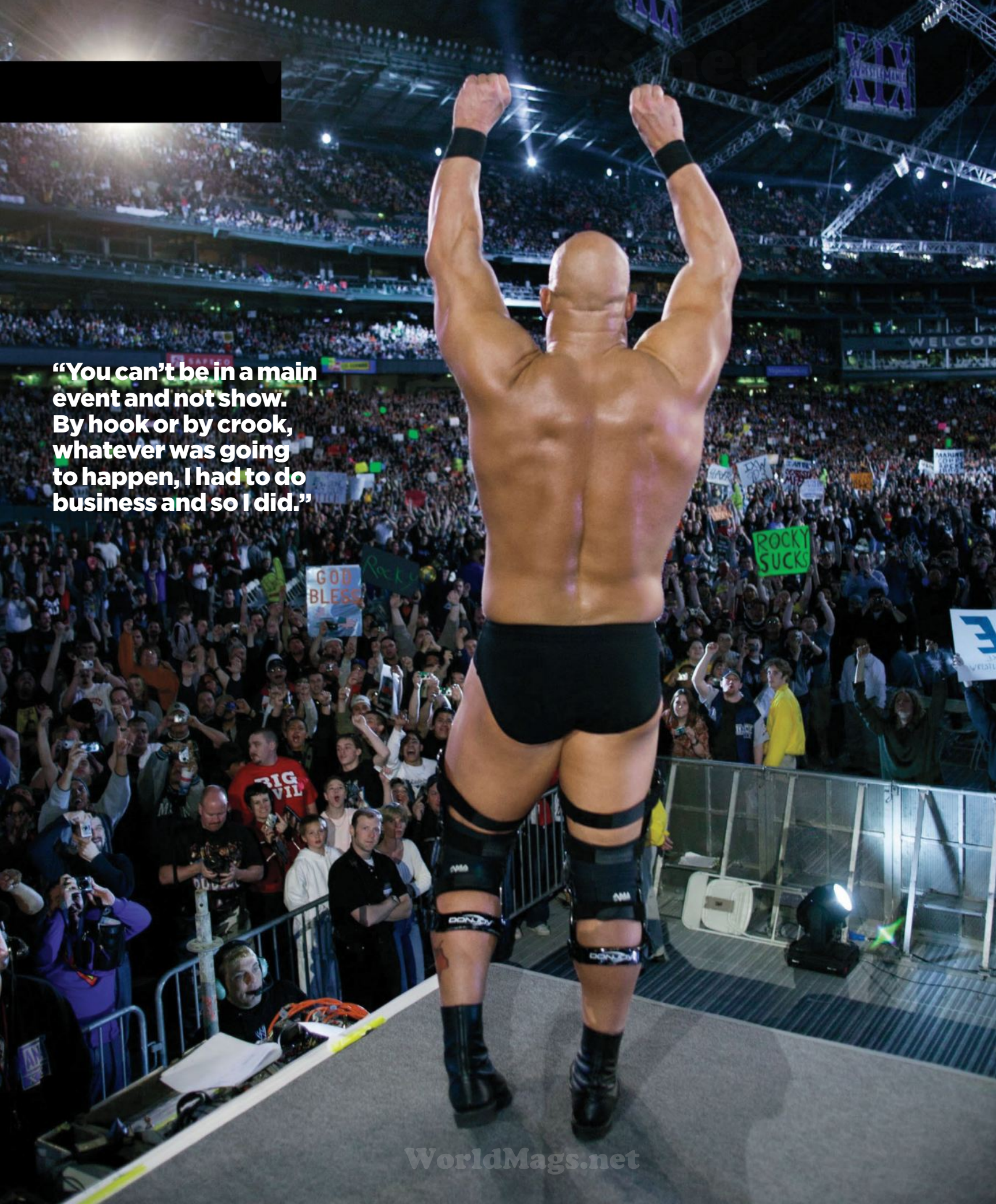
resting too little and not taking care of myself. I had just had that episode and I was dehydrated on top of everything. When I went to the hospital that night, they put four liters of fluid in me. And actually, they really didn't clear me "to wrestle" the next day—but I didn't need clearance. I was free to go out and do whatever I needed to do. Of course the thing to do was to go wrestle The Rock at *WrestleMania XIX* and have my last match. You can't be in a main event and not show. By hook or by crook, whatever was going to happen, I had to do business and so I did. With that being said, that was a onetime incident with the caffeine. I have an absolute total clean bill of health—no heart issues, no this, no that. It was a total fluke: a combination of dehydration, not enough rest, and too much caffeine.

Now, the biggest show of the year always means some once-in-a-lifetime matchups, and your name comes up often as far as dream matches go. But what's a dream match that you'd love to see?

It'd be nice to see someone who could really physically match up with Brock Lesnar, go out there and put on a bust-ass physical match that would suit his size, structure, demeanor, and the world where he just came out of. He started in WWE, went to MMA, and then came back to wrestling. Just someone who could go toe-to-toe with that guy and, as my old friend Jim Ross would say, a slobberknocker of a match. Other than that, if Undertaker could somehow lace them up for one more match. I know that guy has been through the wringer and I have the utmost respect for him, but if he could make one more badass appearance, that would be neat to see. Or CM Punk in a lights-out match with someone who was really hot—and I don't know who that guy would be right now for him. Those would be a couple right off the top of my head.



Stone Cold boasts *WrestleMania* wins over The Rock and Shawn Michaels.

A professional wrestler, seen from behind, stands on a stage with arms raised in a crowd. The wrestler is bald, muscular, and wearing black trunks, black knee pads, and black boots. The crowd is large and enthusiastic, with many people holding up signs. Some visible signs include "GOD BLESS", "ROCKY SUCKS", and "BIG EVIL". The arena is filled with spectators, and the lighting is bright, typical of a professional wrestling event.

“You can’t be in a main event and not show. By hook or by crook, whatever was going to happen, I had to do business and so I did.”

Dream Battle Royal

Here's our pitch—celebrate 30 years of *WrestleMania* with a 30-Superstar Battle Royal featuring some of the toughest, coolest, weirdest and most nostalgic Superstars ever. Whom will be the last man standing?



1. The Ultimate Warrior

Warrior went full force every time he stepped between the ropes, and made nonsensical snarling and arm tassels legendary in the process.

2. The Iron Sheik

Sheik turned up the heat with his anti-American promos, and used that passionate hatred to take on anyone who had something to say about it.

3. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan

Armed with a two-by-four and a flag, Duggan faced his enemy with the heart and brutality of a true American.

4. Razor Ramon

Ramon loved cool cars and hot women, and any disrespect sent his way was met with a discarded toothpick.

5. Waylon Mercy

His talent was always on, but something else—perhaps the psychotic look in his eyes?—was just...off...about Waylon.

6. Max Moon

We've seen scooters, monster trucks and low-riders, but can you think of another Superstar whose preferred mode of transportation was a jet pack?

7. Tugboat

The bigger they are, the harder it is to eliminate them. And few were bigger than the 384-pounder in the sailor's suit.

8. Papa Shango

With *WMXXX* heading to voodoo country, who better to make a comeback than the skull-toting, top hat-wearing, barf-inducing doctor of the black arts?

9. The Berzerker

The original pioneer of the male UGG trend—sorry, Tom Brady—The Berzerker's finishing move actually involved dumping his opponents over the top rope until they got counted out, so he's a perfect fit!

10. Dean Malenko

This technician left his mark in WCW and WWE as a ladies' man who could twist you into a pretzel and have you crying "uncle" in no time. They didn't call him the "Man of 1,000 Holds" for nothing, and he'll show you why.

11. Repo Man

For a guy who once boldly stole Randy Savage's trademark hat, The Repo Man could very easily steal a Battle Royal victory before you even realized he stepped into the ring. Pretty sneaky!

12. Duke Droese

A guy affectionately called "The Dumpster" knows plenty about tossing things. His specialty was garbage, but that knowledge would still help here.

13. Simon Dean

He may have been condescending and a little egotistical, but Simon Dean sure knew how to stay in shape.

14. The Hurricane

Certainly not the biggest Superstar, but The Hurricane can break down any of his towering opponents with a Chokeslam.

15. Kwang

By spitting green mist before Tajiri and Tensai made it cool, Kwang completely distracted opponents from the fact that he was Savio Vega in a mask.

**16. Brian Knobbs**

Brian Knobbs would easily be one of the nastiest two Superstars in the Battle Royal. Oh Nasty Boys, don't ever change.

17. Jerry Sags

The other half of the grossest, smelliest tag team from the '90s, it's Jerry Sags—Mr. Sags if you're nasty.

18. Skinner

A *WrestleMania* down on the bayou sounds like the perfect setting for the return of Skinner, the gator-lovin' Superstar from the Florida Everglades.

19. Alex Wright

Nowadays, Superstars dance just as much as they wrestle. So Alex Wright, WCW's funky German, would be right at home in today's melee.

20. IRS

WrestleMania comes right at the height of tax season, so it might help to have a certified public accountant in the mix.

21. The Warlord

Santino Marella beat The Warlord's longstanding record for shortest time in a Royal Rumble Match in 2009, but can Warlord reclaim his throne?

22. Vampiro

This Buffy-reject debuted long before *True Blood* made vampires cool again. Why not raise this vamp one last time?

23. Hillbilly Jim

Duck Dynasty continues to grow in popularity, so when people hear his name, they won't think about dueling banjos. On second thought...

24. Sycho Sid

A guy big and scary enough to ruthlessly attack Jose Lothario would have plenty of success in a Battle Royal—unless Lothario returned for long-awaited retribution, of course.

25. Tatanka

With his sacred eagle feathers, Tatanka beat Shawn Michaels at *WrestleMania IX* in Las Vegas by disqualification. Anyone who boasts a win over "Mr. *WrestleMania*" on The Grandest Stage of Them All has to be taken seriously.

26. The Mountie

Although he has one of the shortest Intercontinental Championship reigns in WWE history, one thing is certain: The Mountie always gets his man—even if he uses a shock stick to do so.

27. Virgil

Virgil may have been a bodyguard for most of his career, but he knows how to apply the Million Dollar Dream.

28. Disco Inferno

So what if Disco Inferno would forget how to apply his finishing hold sometimes. That's why he brings a cheat sheet.

29. Brutus the Barber Beefcake

For someone who probably went to cosmetology school, Beefcake was no joke. He ended Mr. Perfect's 18-month undefeated streak!

30. Boogeyman

He ate live worms in the ring. It's hard to beat him when you're throwing up. Plus who wasn't scared of the boogeyman growing up? That works in his favor.

Q&A Cody Rhodes on...

Making It—And Breaking It

One-half of The Brotherhood takes us through the ups, downs and in-betweens of fighting for a spot on the *WrestleMania* card year after year.

Your first official 'Mania appearance as a Superstar was in 2008 at *WrestleMania XXIV* in a Battle Royal Match for a chance at the ECW Championship later in the evening. What do you remember about that night?

One of the cool things about *WrestleMania*, and I think people don't know this exactly, is that it's expected that the house lights are usually up. Since the Citrus Bowl is an outdoor stadium, the whole place lit up so you didn't just see that second or third row from that lower bowl, you could see the entire Citrus Bowl filled!

A year later, as part of The Legacy, you're involved in the huge, main-event rivalry between Randy Orton and Triple H. But you weren't on the card, and, in fact, barely appeared on the show other than in a backstage segment. Did that feel like a letdown?

That was one of those situations where at the time I was happy in the fact that we were a major part of the bigger story going into The 25th Anniversary of *WrestleMania*. And it was like little baby steps. To be backstage in that shot with Randy before he prepared to

go out and have such a personal issue resolved on screen as well as a WWE Title Match was a win for me. I also remember I didn't feel that I was a worthy enough to go wait in Gorilla for the match even though I was such a big part of the story. So I sat outside in the tunnel watching the monitor on Gorilla in the doorway. I remember Stephanie McMahon actually motioning me to come in to the Gorilla area, where I got to watch the match, and I remember Teddy DiBiase wasn't there.

The next year you get your wish and this time it's a Triple Threat Match against your former Legacy cohorts...

I had really come into my own, and Teddy and I had a very competitive situation with one another, so it was almost aggressive between the two of us. It got to the point where we got the opportunity to not just make it about us but also make it about Randy emerging into a new stage in his career. It was a coming out party for him. It wasn't really a Triple Threat, it was more of a two-on-one. Personally I would have preferred it to be a pure Triple Threat Match.

Then you finally get to contest a singles match in the Georgia Dome, which happens to be close to your hometown. Did you feel a home team advantage?

They've never really treated me like a conquering hero in Atlanta. It wasn't necessarily a group of people who came out to see me. The cool thing for me was I had gone to the Georgia Dome as a kid, I had been at *Nitro* the night Goldberg won the World Heavyweight Championship with 40,000 people. Now I'm there with 80,000 people. I'm standing across the ring from Rey Mysterio, a guy I literally grew up watching.

In Miami the following year, you're in another singles match, but this time with the complete opposite opponent in Big Show...

I think it's kind of ironic that I went from facing the smallest cruiserweight to The World's Largest Athlete. For me, it was a loss but a win in the sense that it was the Intercontinental Title on a *WrestleMania* card and it not just a throwaway match. I feel like I made a statement more than I ever could had in that match about how I could hang with Big Show and in that capacity. It was a loss—but a win as well.

Tell us about what happened last year at *WrestleMania 29*? The Rhodes Scholars and The Bellas were all set for a match against Tons of Funk and The Funkadactyls...

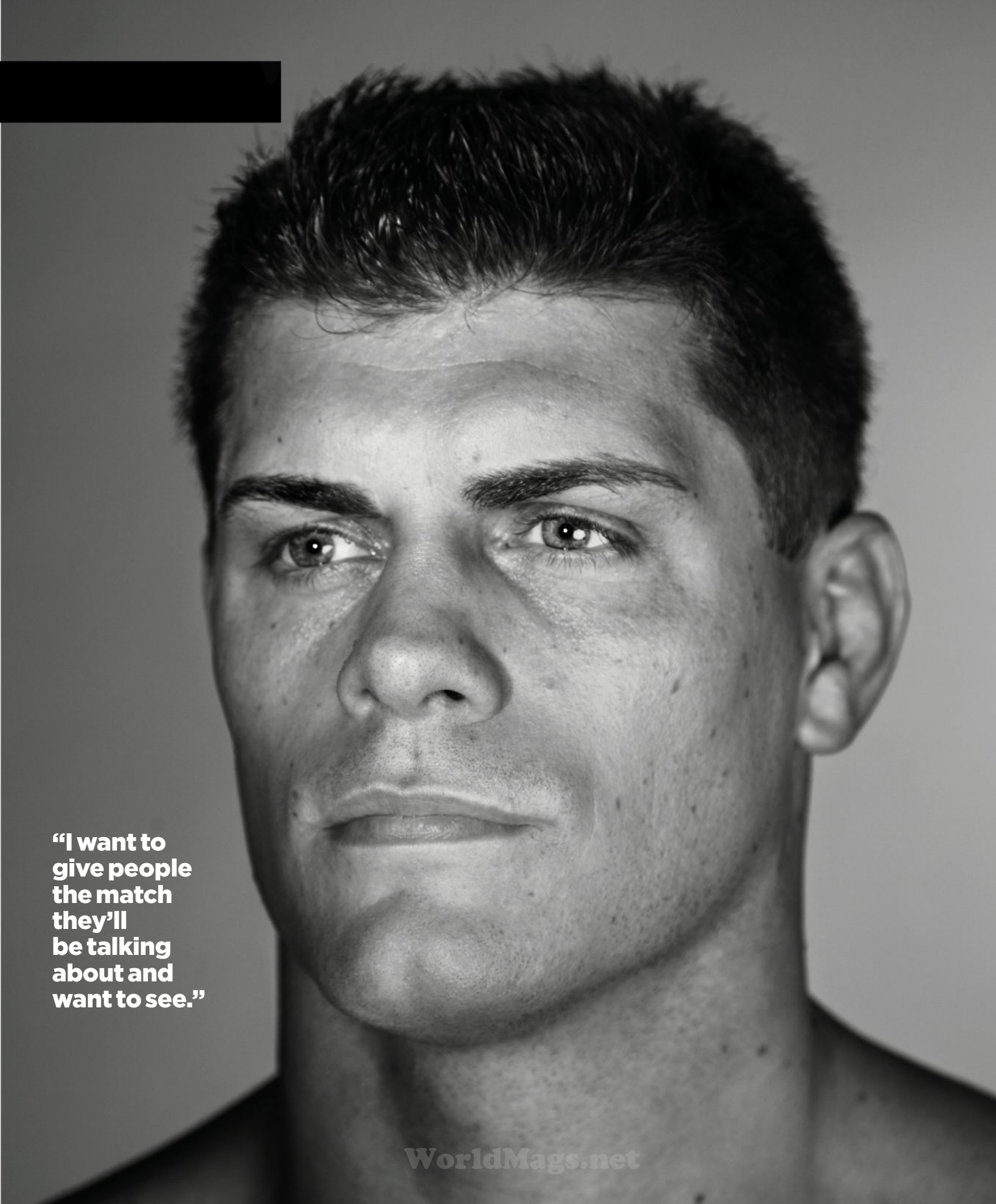
I was just unlucky. I remember there was about 20 minutes to go before our match. I remember walking differently, really ready to go out there while watching CM Punk and Undertaker mere feet away from 80,000 people. Everybody knows what happened. But here's something nobody knows. When I was told we were going to have the match the next day on *Raw*, a couple of people in the group felt, "Yeah we're going to prove to them." I was just so shocked and I was hurt but I really looked into the situation of what belongs on 'Mania and what didn't. Then I told the Chairman in MetLife Stadium in the Meadowlands, that match didn't belong on *WrestleMania*... but I did. I was fully waiting to get fired after I said that.

Finally, what's your plan for this year in New Orleans. What can we hope to expect when Cody Rhodes is on the card?

You can look at it a little bit as what 2013 was all about. However, the best way to look at it, and the most cryptic thing I can tell you is, I want to give people the match that they're talking about and the match that they want to see.



Cody Rhodes defended the I-C Championship at *WMXXVIII* against Big Show.

A black and white close-up portrait of a man with short, dark, spiky hair and light-colored eyes. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A solid black rectangular bar is located in the top-left corner of the image.

**“I want to
give people
the match
they’ll
be talking
about and
want to see.”**

30 Greatest Celebrities In 'Mania History

Worlds collide at every 'Mania, but who are the most influential pop culture icons in the history of The Show of Shows?

30



Akebono, WM21
It only took 1:03 for Akebono to defeat Big Show in a Sumo Match. Guess he didn't account for the conditioning of the all-around massive human being.

29



Alex Trebek, WMVII
The host of *Jeopardy!*—no, not Will Ferrell—made everyone at ring-side answer in the form of a question when he served as announcer.

28



Cab Calloway, WM2
One of the most famous American jazz musicians in history served as a judge for the epic Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper Boxing Match.

27



Snoop Lion, WMXXIV
Who better to oversee a Lumberjill Match than Snoop Lion? No one watching was surprised when the iconic rapper left the ring with not one but two Divas.

26



Morton Downey Jr., WMV
The controversial talk show host made a big mistake, blowing smoke in Roddy Piper's face. So Piper put his fire out with an extinguisher.

25



Butterbean, WMXV
Unlike Floyd Mayweather vs. Big Show, this was an actual boxing matchup between professional boxer Butterbean and grappler Bart Gunn. Guess who won?

24



Willie Nelson, WMVII
'Mania went country when Willie Nelson performed "America the Beautiful." Nelson's appearance capped a stellar celeb group that included Chuck Norris!

23



Regis Philbin, WMVII
Regis Philbin bravely interviewed Undertaker moments before his iconic Streak began. We guess it must be the luck of the Irish?

22



Run D.M.C., WMV
Credit these Queens, NY, rappers for creating the greatest song on WWE-themed playlists: "The WrestleMania Rap." They even brought a turntable!

21



Alice Cooper, WMIII
Few pairings are more appropriate than Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Alice Cooper, who grabbed Roberts's snake Damien and scared Jimmy Hart, turning him from a bass into a soprano.

20



Pam Anderson & Jenny McCarthy, WMXI
A pair of heartbreakers surrounded Shawn Michaels, but these *Baywatch* babes ultimately sided with Diesel.

19



Bob Uecker, WMIV
"Mr. Baseball" courageously interviewed Andre the Giant while he promised the end of Hulkamania. Naturally, the giant shook Uecker like a Polaroid for his efforts.

18



Liberace and The Rockettes, WM
Liberace and The Rockettes showed their moves at the first *WrestleMania*. Think of it as a precursor to Flo Rida—only with more glitter.

17



William Perry, WM2
The Frigate entered the 20-man Battle Royal at *WrestleMania 2* as a heavy favorite, but Andre proved he was The Eighth Wonder and ultimately stood tall in victory.



16

Flo Rida, WMXXVIII
Speaking of Flo Rida, which was the bigger hit: When he performed "Wild Ones" or when he shoved Heath Slater into a wall earlier in the night in Miami?



15

Snooki, WMXXVII
Jersey Shore star Snooki brought her haymakers and hair-pulling to Hot Lanta against Dolph Ziggler, Vickie Guerrero and Lay-Cool. She even scored the pin!



14

Lawrence Taylor and Salt-N-Pepa, WMXI
Before LT toppled Bam Bam Bigelow, Salt-N-Pepa sang a personalized warning with their hit, "Whatta Man."



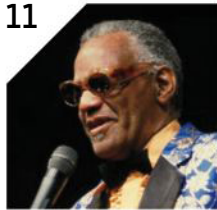
13

Motörhead, WMX-Seven & WM21
The DX band's performances raised the bar for...but seriously, Motörhead got Triple H amped for battle twice by rocking him to ringside.



12

Burt Reynolds, WMX
Right before Bret Hart and Yokozuna went toe-to-toe for the WWE Title, the WWE Universe was treated to 1994's most iconic sex symbol: Burt Reynolds's moustache.



11

Ray Charles, WM2
Ray Charles didn't open 'Mania 2 with fancy frills and fanfare, just the most soulful version of "America the Beautiful" that the WWE Universe had ever seen.



9

Kim Kardashian, WMXXIV
Before we (and Yeezus) were keeping up with her, Kim was a special backstage interviewer on The Grandest Stage of Them All. She was brave enough to stand in during a Mr. Kennedy promo, which is probably why we haven't seen her in WWE since.



8

Pete Rose, WMXIV, WMXV, WM2000, WMXX
During The Attitude Era, you couldn't swing a kendo stick at 'Mania without hitting Pete Rose. Kane beat him up at three consecutive Shows.



7

Floyd Mayweather, The 25th Anniv. of WM
Big Show couldn't do anything against his much shorter opponent once the Light Middleweight Champ landed a right hook with brass knuckles.



6

Aretha Franklin, WMIII and WM23
With her sultry, emotional and powerful notes, The Queen of Soul left the crowd in awe both times she sang at The Show of Shows in Detroit.



5

Mike Tyson, WMXIV
"The Baddest Man on the Planet" took his Special Enforcer duties to heart, counting Stone Cold to victory and KO'ing Shawn Michaels when he mouthed off to him.



4

Mr. T, WM & WM2
Teaming with Hulk Hogan and boxing against Roddy Piper, Mr. T became a 'Mania icon, as more celebs began to populate the pro wrestling scene.



3

Donald Trump, WMIV, WMV, WMVII, WMXX & WM23
As a longtime fan and friend of WWE, Trump—and his plaza—have seen a lot of in-ring action. He even shaved The Chairman's head!



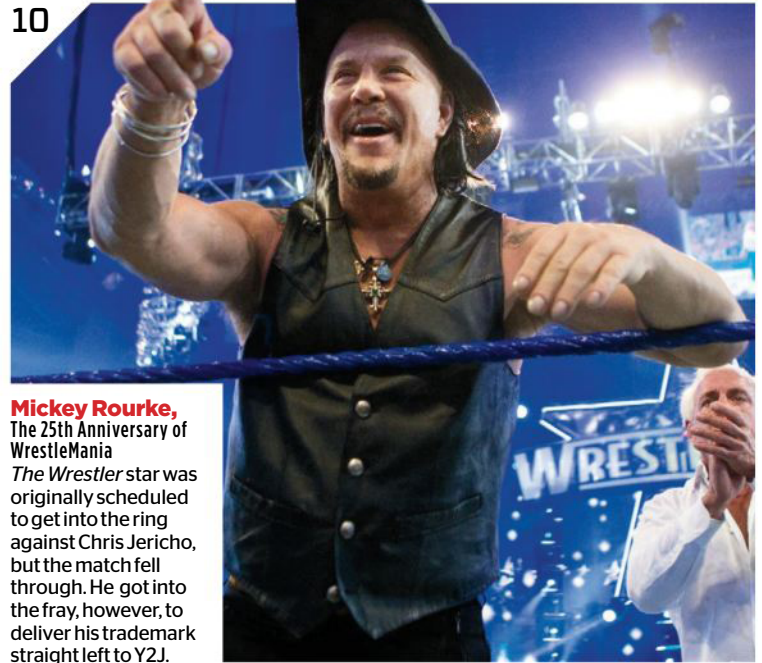
2

Muhammad Ali, WM
For the greatest wrestling event in history, WWE grabbed the "World's Greatest." No, not Drake. Seeing Ali pose with Hulk Hogan became a huge part of WWE lore.



1

Cyndi Lauper, WM
Lauper, music and wrestling was a match made in heaven as it propelled the first 'Mania into the mainstream long before she broke glass over Heath Slater's head.



10

Mickey Rourke, The 25th Anniversary of WrestleMania
The *Wrestler* star was originally scheduled to get into the ring against Chris Jericho, but the match fell through. He got into the fray, however, to deliver his trademark straight left to Y2J.

Q&A John Cena on...

What's Next At The Show Of Shows

Some say the Champ's done it all, but the man without quit says different, and clarifies what lies ahead beyond 'Mania!

You've competed at ten *WrestleManias*; what do you hope the next five-to-ten will hold for you?

For the next decade of *WrestleMania*, participation would be my goal. With a grand and prestigious event like The Show of Shows, you're only as good as your last performance. Every year that you're called up to the card is an honor, a privilege, and I've been grateful and humbled every year to be part of the show, no matter my past successes. To make it there, it means you're still relevant, that the WWE Universe is coming out to see YOU. There's nothing else we as Superstars want, or strive for, more than that. I have no other hopes, or aspirations that go farther than simply hoping I'll get on the card.

You've created so many memorable moments. Does trying to top yourself interfere with what you bring to the ring?

I never try to top myself. Every year is new, and every year brings different expectations. Of course, I have different expectations for myself, and I know the WWE Universe has different expectations for me. I go out there and do the best I can, and

last year—or any previous years—couldn't be further from my mind. The things I've done in the past are always with me, and it's made me who I am today, but no, going into 'Mania with the idea of trying to top yourself is the wrong mindset to be in. You always want to do great, but to be great, you have to start from scratch.

How do you ensure you don't get hung up on the past? You're always looking forward, and that's probably key at *WrestleMania*, right?

Not getting hung up on the past is easier as time goes on. I'd say through experience, you learn how to move on. I've had some pretty cool *WrestleMania* moments, and some pretty epic 'Mania losses. And I don't think it's until you hit those points that you realize the only thing you can do to survive is to look forward. What really matters is how you handle things afterward. The greats in this business, the legends, are those who can master that. Everything moves so fast and you have to keep up.

When would you say you get into 'Mania mode?

The day after the event, I start

thinking about what I'm going to do next year. And for me it's not my gear or my entrance, it's what I can do throughout the year that will get me back on that card, and what I can do to put on the best *WrestleMania* possible. WWE itself puts on an amazing show, but we all still have to do our parts to make it what it's supposed to be. It's a production that takes 100 percent from everybody. Making 'Mania special should be the No. 1 priority, and that job encompasses everyone here. All eyes should be focused there.

Which newcomer on the WWE roster right now would you face one day? Is there anyone specifically whom you think can bring the challenge in the future?

It's too hard to say at this point. All our Superstars have talent and whether I face them at some point down the line, I can't say. So many factors go into putting a match together, a story together and sometimes the best moments are those that are unexpected and unpredictable. Moments no one could have foreseen. So, my best answer, honestly? Time will tell.

What do you think is key for a Superstar making that jump to the marquee matches?

If I knew that, and if it could be

pin-pointed, then I would have every Superstar make that jump into the marquee bouts. I don't think it truly can be explained, and I don't think it's the same for every Superstar. There's no tangible I can put on that, and that's what I think makes WWE so special—and makes it what it is today. It's about the stars aligning, and things happening when they're supposed to happen. And that also applies to me, and how I've progressed in my career. There is no one specific thing that has gotten me to where I am today, and I know that.

You're often in the main event that closes the show at 'Mania, so that means you've got close to four hours from the Pre-Show until your match. How do you usually spend that time?

I watch *WrestleMania*. I'm a fan just like I've always been: I want to see what happens, just like everyone else in the WWE Universe. I'm excited to see how things turn out and watch out for historical *WrestleMania* moments, and observe the tone until it's my turn. There's nothing like it, and couple that with the background, backdrop, dynamic of the crowd, spectacular atmosphere that The Grandest Stage of Them All, and it's not just your typical live event. It's so much more.



At *WrestleMania 23*, Shawn Michaels and Cena faced off at Ford Field.

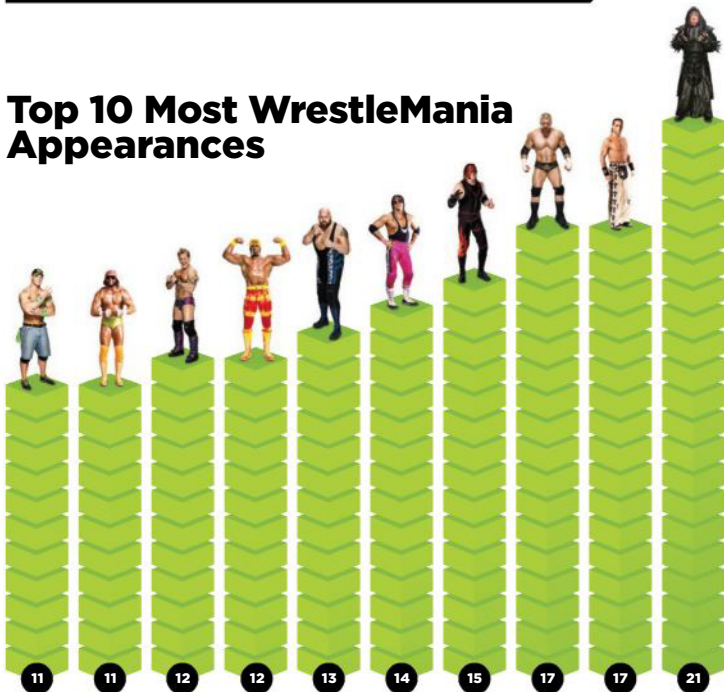


“So many factors go into putting a match together, a story together, and sometimes the best moments are those that are unexpected and unpredictable.”

Rest In Pieces

Undertaker built an unmatched reputation at *WrestleMania*. Check out why he towers over the competition at The Show of Shows.

Top 10 Most WrestleMania Appearances



The Deadman Difference

Undertaker defeated 18 unique competitors at *WrestleMania*. The combined record of these Superstars at *WM* is 55-76-1, earning a win percentage of 42 percent. But if you remove The Deadman's 21 victories from these Superstars' W/L columns, the record would be a completely even 55-55-1.



91

■ Number of pay-per-view matches **Undertaker** has won, including his legendary 21 at *WrestleMania*.

Win Percentage at *WrestleMania*

■ A total of **83** Superstars, including Undertaker, have a winning record at *WrestleMania*. Only 34 of these competitors have contested more than two matches. Eight of the 34 have yet to lose, with Rob Van Dam and The Miz (4-0) having the most wins—followed by Sable, Hawk and Animal, and Demolition Ax with 3-0 records, and Rick Rude at 2-0-1.

Only **16** of these **34** have contested in more than five bouts. Of that 16, Big Boss Man (5-1) has the best record—after Undertaker—with .833. The rest of the top six includes Earthquake and The Ultimate Warrior (both 4-1) with .800 each, Stone Cold Steve Austin (5-2) with .714, and John Cena (7-3) with .700.

New Champ Dynasties

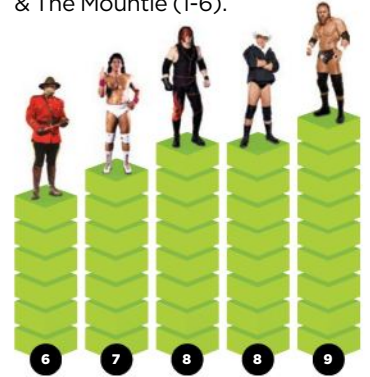
Undertaker and Stone Cold Steve Austin are the only Superstars to win the same World Title at consecutive *WrestleManias*. The Deadman won the World Heavyweight Title at *WrestleManias* 23 and XXIV, and The Texas Rattlesnake won the WWE Title at *WrestleManias* XIV and XV.





Most Losses

■ **Triple H**, 8-9, owns the most losses in history! Slightly ahead in the loss column are Kane (7-8), JBL (2-8), Tito Santana (1-7), & The Mountie (1-6).



30:41

■ **The longest match** The Phenom contested at *WrestleMania* came against Shawn Michaels at The 25th Anniv. of *WrestleMania* in 30:41.

Surviving Hell

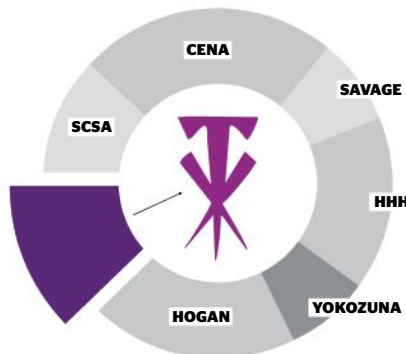
■ **Chilling steel** has appeared at *WrestleMania* three times—in the form of the Cage Match and Hell In A Cell. Undertaker appeared in two of these bouts, versus Big Boss Man at *WMXV* and Triple H at *WMXXVIII*.

Respect the Law and Order

■ **Big Boss Man** boasts a 5-1 record at *WrestleMania*, the highest winning percentage (0.833) of any one of Undertaker's opponents. The victim with the most wins is Triple H, who boasts eight Show of Shows victories. Kane follows with seven, and Shawn Michaels and Edge have six each.

Multi-time Champs

■ **The Phenom** is one of seven Superstars to win multiple World Championship Matches at *WrestleMania*—compared to 15 who've only won one. With his three wins, he's joined by John Cena (6), Hulk Hogan (5), Triple H (4), Stone Cold (3), Randy Savage (2) and Yokozuna (2).



Handicap Matches at *WrestleMania*

***WrestleMania V*:** Demolition def. Powers of Pain & Mr. Fuji
***WrestleMania XIX*:** Undertaker def. A-Train & Big Show
***WrestleMania XX*:** Evolution def. The Rock 'N' Sock Connection
25th Anniv. of *WrestleMania*: Chris Jericho def. "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka & Roddy Piper & Ricky Steamboat

Q&A Jerry Lawler on...

Entering The Hall Of Fame

"The King" explains what makes a Hall of Famer, his conversation with Mr. McMahon about being inducted, and William Shatner's less than stellar eyesight.

By the time WMXXVII rolled around, did you just accept that you'd never have a match at *WrestleMania*?

Oh yeah, I had actually completely given up hope of ever actually competing at a *WrestleMania*. It was just the timing of my mom passing away and talking about it on air. The situation with Michael Cole, at the time being certainly not a fan favorite, and the remarks that he made about my mom, really wasn't intended to work into a *WrestleMania* match at all. That situation between Cole and me became so personal that they almost couldn't ignore it. They had to throw it in there.

And then Stone Cold was added into the mix. With Austin involved, what did you expect? There's sort of a guarantee that there's going to be a bunch of beer on your gear, right?

Yes and also, I've never drank—not even a sip of alcohol in my life. So I knew that I would be in there to celebrate with Austin and beers, and had to make it look like I was drinking, but I punched the cans together—the beer was flying everywhere. In the end, I left all the drinking to Steve. And he drank enough for the both of us.

What surprised you about competing at *'Mania* as opposed to just commenting?

It's a tremendous amount of pressure to just commentate and call the action at a *WrestleMania*. You have to go out in front of all those thousands of people in that huge stadium, be dressed in a tuxedo and have the pressure of commentating. Then you have the added pressure of knowing, at some point in the show, you're going to have to go to the back, peel off that tuxedo, put on wrestling gear and come out and contest a match. Then you have to take off your wrestling gear off, and come back out and finish commentating the rest of the show. It took some of the enjoyment out of it because there was so much pressure leading up to it. It's such a pressure-packed environment that you don't even think about it being fun until later.

Now, you're in an exclusive group of Hall of Famers to compete after their induction, but what was your reaction when you found out you'd be entering the Hall?

Well to be honest, when Mr. McMahon first approached me and told me that they wanted to

put me in the Hall of Fame, I said, "No! I don't want to." Up until that time, I had always looked at the Hall of Fame like the baseball or football Hall of Fames in that you wouldn't even be considered eligible until a certain amount of years passed after your career was over. And so, I just told him, "I don't want people to think or have the feeling that my wrestling career is over because I want to continue to compete. And so I would rather not right at this point in time." He said, "No, no, you have it all wrong. It certainly doesn't mean your wrestling career is over. We're just honoring you and putting you in the Hall of Fame for what you've accomplished up until this point. It certainly doesn't mean your career is over." I was honored from the get-go, but I just didn't want it to mean I wouldn't be able to get in the ring anymore. Once he made that clear to me, then it was full steam ahead.

Your friend William Shatner inducted you in 2007. Did you interact with him at all before the night of the ceremony?

Unfortunately, this was how our meeting went when he arrived. We sat down and he said, "Jerry, my eyes are not great. How far away from the podium is the Teleprompter?" I said, "Oh Bill, we don't use a Teleprompter."

This is where I really wish, with all my heart, we had just said, "Bill, wing it." That would have been fine with me. But instead, a whole list of accolades were written for him, which he was supposed to say about me. Unfortunately, he couldn't even see it. So he ended up just trying to read it off the sheet they wrote it on. It was uncomfortable. I could hear some people out there in the audience saying, "You don't know him!" When I got out there and shook his hand, he said, "Wow, this is a tough crowd, 'King.'"

Finally, what do you think is the best representation of a WWE Hall of Famer?

Well, for one thing, be around for a long time. A lot of it has to do with longevity and having a career that's successful and spans a number of years. You need to be featured—not necessarily always in the spotlight—in the WWE Universe's mind, where they would be thinking of you even if you weren't there. Of course, your in-ring accomplishments, or whatever it is that you've contributed to WWE, if they're considered important enough. That's how you get in there. You had to have done something that has made a lasting impression in the eyes of the WWE Universe.



"The King" contested his first *WrestleMania* match at age 61.



“That situation between Cole and me became so personal that they almost couldn’t ignore it.”

30 Unreal Moments From The Night After

Thanks to some heated post-*WrestleMania* crowds and several shocking moments, the next night on *Raw* has taken on a life of its own. Count the 30 best moments from the evening after The Show of Shows.

Shocking Alliances

30



Triple H reforms D-Generation X with The New Age Outlaws & X-Pac. 3/30/98

29



Ken Shamrock rescues Stephanie McMahon from The Ministry. 3/29/99

28



Triple H and Stone Cold form the Two-Man Power Trip. 4/2/01

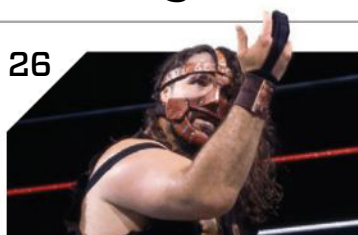
27



The original nWo splits when Hulk Hogan teams with The Rock. 3/18/02

Shocking Debuts & Returns

26



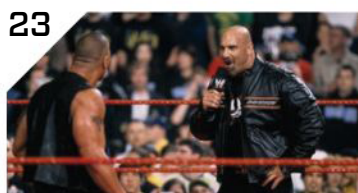
Mankind squeals as he attacks Undertaker with his Mandible Claw. 4/1/96

24



Brock Lesnar interrupts a Hardcore bout to break the Superstars in half. 3/18/02

23



Goldberg ruins "Rock Appreciation Night" with a Spear! 3/31/03

25



Brock Lesnar answers the raucous "We want Brock!" cheers by F-5'ing John Cena. 4/2/12

22



Umaga takes out Ric Flair after he hints at chasing the World Title again. 4/3/06

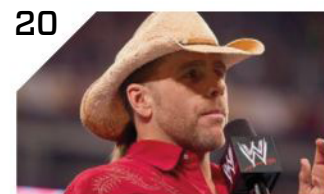
21



Batista returns to even the odds against Randy Orton and The Legacy. 4/6/09

Tearjerkers

20



The Heartbreak Kid has left the building. 3/29/10

19



Ric Flair leaves the memories alone. 3/31/08

18



Eric Bischoff fires Stone Cold. 3/31/03

New Eras



17

The WWE front office announces the first Superstar Draft. **3/18/02**



15

John Laurinaitis rings in the era of "People Power." **4/2/12**

16



The New Generation-era WWE Title is retired. **3/30/98**



14

"Yes!" chants become background music for every show. **4/2/12**



13

Members of the WWE Universe sing Fandango's theme...all night. **4/8/13**

Classic Matches



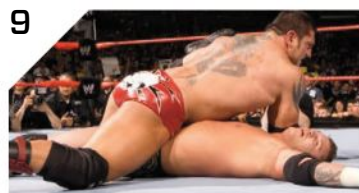
12

Eddie Guerrero and Chris Jericho recreate Cruiserweight magic. **4/3/00**



10

The reformed Hardy Boys win the tag titles in a 10-Team Battle Royal. **4/2/07**



9

Batista battles former Evolution teammate Randy Orton. **4/4/05**



11

Randy Orton & Rey Mysterio silence CM Punk & Cody Rhodes. **4/4/11**



8

The Rock and John Cena schedule their *WrestleMania XXVIII* Match. **4/4/11**



7

Dolph Ziggler cashes in his MITB contract to win the World Title. **4/8/13**

Confrontations



6

Shawn Michaels fires Sid, earning a Powerbomb. **4/3/95**



5

Bret Hart tells the WWE Universe to kiss his ass. **3/24/97**



4

Owen Hart calls The British Bulldog a "gutless coward." **3/24/97**



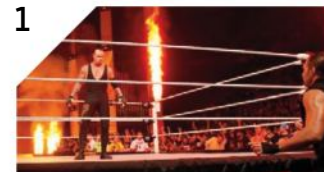
3

The Miz thinks Stone Cold isn't "tough enough" to face him. **4/4/11**



2

Ryback turns his back on John Cena and the WWE Universe. **4/8/13**



1

The Shield interrupts Undertaker's tribute to Paul Bearer. **4/8/13**

Q&A Edge on...

Riding Off Into The Sunset

The Rated-R Superstar describes his retirement, his conversation with Christian, and the fairy-tale end to his illustrious career.

What were those first couple days and weeks after you announced your retirement from WWE like for you?

It wasn't as hard as one would think. I had already been wrapping my mind around the idea of retirement. I didn't know exactly when, but I did know that it was coming sooner rather than later. So I knew that I'd have to come to terms with it. It was kind of a relief in way because the decision was out of my hands, which strangely made it easier. And within a couple of weeks, I was out filming *Haven*. So there wasn't really any downtime after.

Put us in the room with you the day you were told you couldn't compete anymore.

I was initially told by Mr. McMahon. He was the one who told me. The Chairman had talked to the doctors. Sitting on my deck in North Carolina, he told me and I was surprised because I passed the strength test we did. Probably my stubbornness was the reason I passed. But [he told me] the MRIs showed that I had a bruised spinal cord, pressure on both sides, and it was being pinched—like a straw. So that means you can't do this anymore. And it was

somewhat surreal. I was like, "OK, I'm surprised by those results to that extent." I knew there was something going on, but I thought, "Well, I have a year left on my contract. I can probably see that through, continue to work with the Dolph Ziggler, the Alberto Del Rios and the younger guys on the scene and try to teach them while I'm still here." But I didn't expect it to be that week. Mr. McMahon said, "Give the doctors a call and get the actual, complete medical rundown from

them." So I called them and they said, "We wouldn't allow our son to continue to do this, so we can't continue allowing you to do this."

What did Christian say when you told him the news?

He was the first person I called. I told him and he was just like, "Whoa." It took him by surprise, too. Like I said, we didn't expect it to be anywhere near that. But he was supportive. He said, "There's bigger things. This isn't the be-all, end-all." I came to that conclusion a long time ago. That first neck injury made me realize that this is only going to last so long, so I better get a more balanced life if I want to retire from this in a good, mentally healthy spot.

When did it settle in for you?

It settled in pretty quick, but I was busy right away. When I finished that first season of *Haven*, I had a moment to sit down and go, "Hey, whoa, I don't have anything to wake up and have to do. Actually, that's pretty cool." So it was probably about six months after I retired. By that point, I kind of knocked the callous off my body that you have to build up to do that job everyday. So I got through all the initial aches and pains. And it took about six months to shake off and realize this is what it will feel like going

forward. This is my new normal. I can jog again and not be in complete agony the entire time. I can restructure things from an exercise standpoint. I didn't have to maintain 250 pounds anymore.

You teamed with Christian at your first *WrestleMania* and he stood in your corner for your last one. What was it like to share those moments with your best friend?

It was serendipity. We ended up back doing the same stuff together on TV. And that was really amazing for me. I had been pushing for that for a while. If not wrestling each other, a nice wrap-up, E&C World Tour for the people who did remember. So that was fun to be able to do. It seemed just the fairy-tale, right way to be able to do it, and it was all by accident because we didn't know where everything was going to go months later. So it just happened the way it was supposed to. Sometimes it does.

Plus, you walked away with the World Championship at *The Show of Shows*. That's the perfect ending, right?

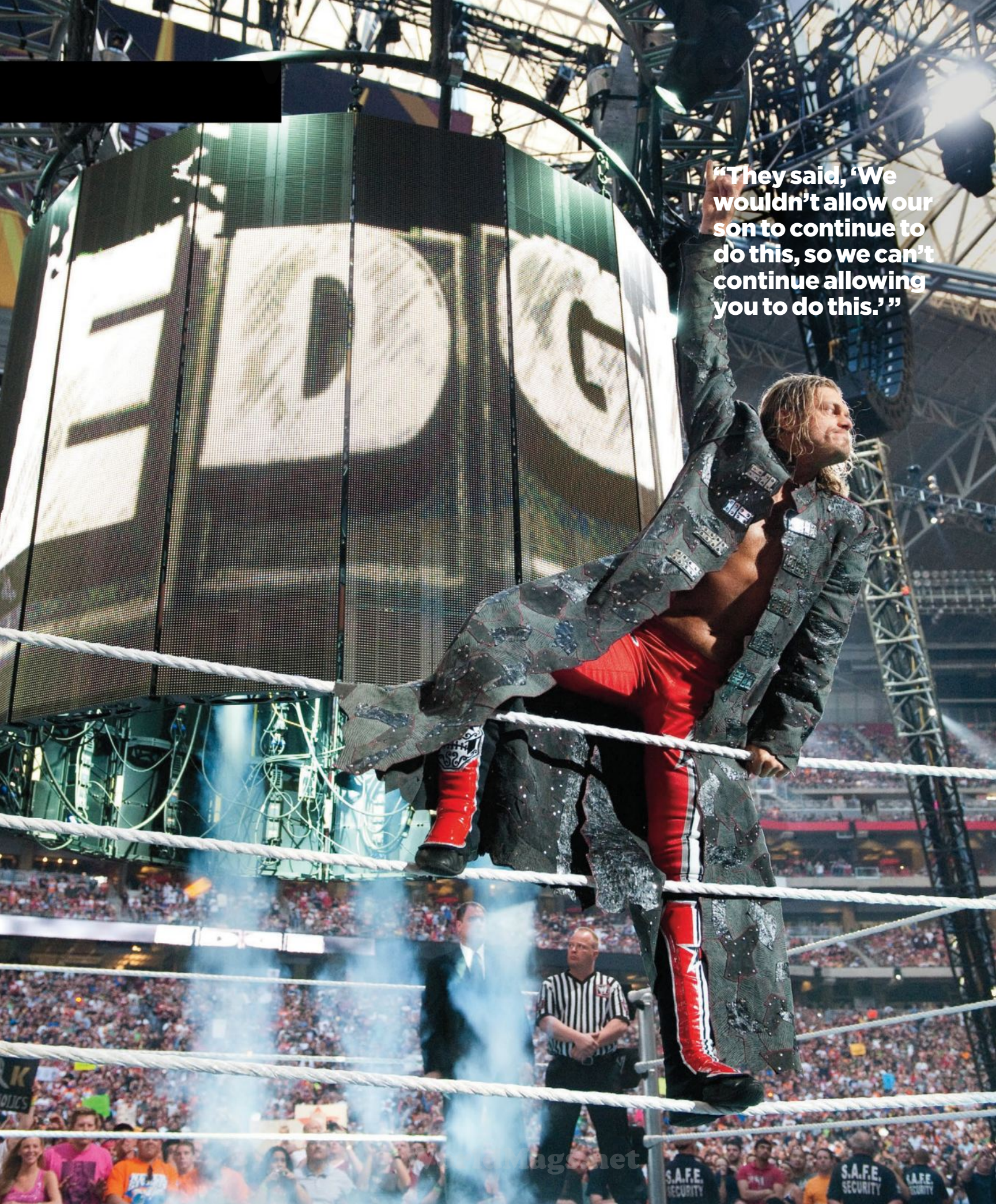
Yeah, I accomplished everything I sought out to do. Everything else was icing on the cake—and I already ate my cake, too.

So what does the next chapter hold for Adam Copeland?

Whatever I want it to, which is cool. Putting the time in that I did and logging the miles that I did, it put me in the position to be able to say, "OK, what's next," and not have to stress or worry about it. I was never one of those guys that went out bought Lamborghinis or anything. I still drive a Jeep. I bought and paid for my house. It's a nice position to be in to go, "OK, I want to relax for the next few months." Just mountain bike and walk the dogs and kind of just live. Or hey, I'm feeling a little creative, are there any projects? Maybe I'll call my agent and say, "Let's try this." So that's a fun, nice place to be, and that's where I am.



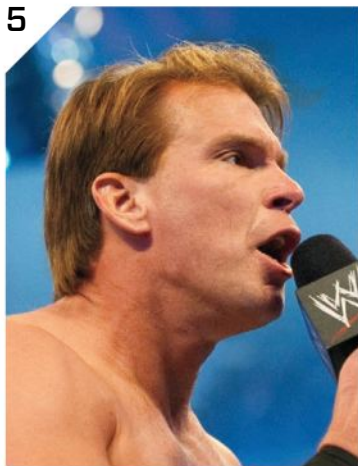
Edge retired after retaining his World Title against Alberto Del Rio at 'Mania.



“They said, ‘We wouldn’t allow our son to continue to do this, so we can’t continue allowing you to do this.’”

How To Go Out In Style

The Grandest Stage of Them All certainly provides best setting for Legends to wrap up their careers. Take some cues from Superstars such as Edge, Ric Flair and JBL and learn how to make the perfect exit and retire like a champion!



1. Believe In The Power of Love

Love conquers all. You don't need money, and you don't even need fame. Randy Savage entered *WrestleMania VII* to a chorus of boos. But after he lost to The Ultimate Warrior with his career on the line, his former love Miss Elizabeth rushed to his side. As the couple reunited and Savage held the ropes open for Elizabeth, the WWE Universe bawled their eyes out. Savage might have lost that night, but with the crowd cheering him on as he left, he looked like the ultimate winner. And that's the power of love.

2. Target The Top Dog

If you know this might be your final bout, why not challenge the baddest dude on the roster? With his career nearing the end, Stone Cold Steve Austin set his sights on a third and final *WrestleMania* battle with his toughest opponent The Rock—then a record seven-time WWE Champion. Injuries nearly sidelined Austin before the *WrestleMania XIX* bout, but he insisted on finishing his career against The Great One. Rock shined that night, and the challenge of his most despised opponent brought out the best in Austin, too.

3. Prepare Your Goodbye Address

Take your final bow. Maybe you start a podcast. Or perhaps, you spend your free time hunting. You can always use your sports-entertainment knowledge to score an announcing gig or even a role at *NXT*. But first, prepare a farewell speech with a callback that tugs at some heartstrings, like Shawn Michaels's "Ladies and Gentlemen, The Heartbreak Kid, Shawn Michaels, has left the building." If Undertaker comes out and shakes your hand, then yeah, you did it right.

4. Dig Into The Arsenal

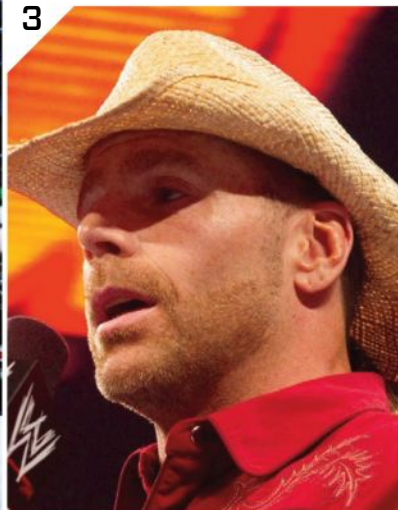
Your last match makes for an opportunity to leave the WWE Universe in awe one more time. So take plenty of chances in the ring. Shawn Michaels became Mr. *WrestleMania* by taking risks. At *WM XXVI* against Undertaker, HBK showcased the knowledge of a 20-plus year career, reversing The Deadman's Last Ride with a facebuster and crashing through a table with a moonsault that still has the WWE Universe cheering, "This is awesome!" It's like if a band plays the new hits on their goodbye tour; stick to the greatest hits!

5. Speak The Truth

It's time to let your true feelings known. If you have an issue, forget the tissue, and tell it to everyone. After losing the Intercontinental Championship in a mere 21 seconds to Rey Mysterio at The 25th Anniversary of *WrestleMania*, JBL hit his breaking point. While the Houston crowd serenaded JBL with "Hey, hey, hey, goodbye!" he wouldn't exit without telling off his fellow Texans. "You're going to miss JBL. ...I am the greatest that's ever been. I promise, you will regret this. You will never get over this!"

6. Destroy Something

The best way to leave a permanent mark is to take something with you. Remember, the pricier the damage, the better. OK, maybe we should be a little more constructive than destructive. Alberto Del Rio loved to flaunt his fancy lifestyle, especially at *WrestleMania XXVII* when he challenged Edge for the World Heavyweight Championship. The Rated-R Superstar decided to leave ADR a memento of his career by wrecking Del Rio's Rolls-Royce. It's like writing "Edge was here" on a wall—only with a crowbar.



7. Go Out With A Bang, Not A Whimper

If this is going to be your last go-round, make sure it ends in a blaze of glory. Ric Flair saw that his time was coming to an end as Shawn Michaels "tuned up the band" for Sweet Chin Music. The Nature Boy wouldn't let one Superkick keep him down, though, as he crawled back to his feet and insisted Michaels deliver another to put him out for good. Similarly, HBK mocked and slapped The Deadman before earning a legendarily devastating Tombstone. Don't accept your fate without some defiance.

8. Have A Friend In Your Corner

Don't go it alone: WrestleMania is a high-pressure environment, especially if it's your last match, but having a friend nearby might ease the stress. A 2011 psychological study showed that the stress-hormone levels in children who underwent a difficult experience were much lower when they had a friend by their side as opposed to when they were without a buddy. Edge found support in his farewell match with longtime pal Christian by his side to ensure the odds were even and that The Ultimate Opportunist had a vocal cheering section.

9. Dress Your Finest

It's a special occasion; you're making your final glorious strut into the ring. So dress to the nines with a special-edition entrance robe/gear that lets the WWE Universe know you mean serious business. WWE Hall of Famer Ric Flair made a career of letting haters know that he dressed in the finest linens—he even dropped an elbow on a few suit jackets. But The Nature Boy took it to a new level before his WrestleMania XXIV bout by stylin' and profilin' to the ring in a robe so magnificent that even James Brown would be jealous.

LIFE AFTER WRESTLEMANIA

How did these Superstars follow their *WrestleMania* retirements?

RANDY SAVAGE Lost to The Ultimate Warrior

WrestleMania VII
The Macho Man returned the next year to challenge Ric Flair before taking his "Macho Madness" to The nWo in the late '90s.

STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

Lost to The Rock
WrestleMania XIX
The Texas Rattlesnake continued to terrorize WWE—and Eric

Bischoff—as Co-General Manager of *Raw* before starring in movies, hosting the TV show *Tough Enough*, and starting his own popular podcast.

JBL Lost to Rey Mysterio

The 25th Anniversary of WrestleMania
The loudmouth Texan joined the commentary booth, dispensing his knowledge of wrestling history before also becoming the General Manager of *NXT* in 2013.

RIC FLAIR Lost to Shawn Michaels

WrestleMania XXIV
Flair coached a team of WWE Hall of Famers against Chris Jericho one year later, but they couldn't silence Y2J.

SHAWN MICHAELS Lost to Undertaker

WrestleMania XXVI
HBK refereed the Hell In A Cell Match between Undertaker and Triple H at *WM XXVIII* and hosts a reality hunting show.

Q&A Stephanie McMahon on...

The Past, Present And Future

There from the beginning, we went to the proper "Authority" to learn what's in store for 'Mania XXX and why WWE Network is the future of television.

How daunting has the prospect of putting on *WrestleMania* each and every year for the past three decades become?

It's an incredible challenge to outdo the previous year's *WrestleMania*, but that's exactly what we try and do, because our fans deserve nothing less. We have such amazing Superstars and Divas, as well as up-and-coming talent. The opportunities are endless in terms of what we can deliver—that's what makes planning *WrestleMania* so exciting each and every year.

***WrestleMania* grew from one night, 30 years ago, to a weeklong event. Did you ever imagine it would reach this magnitude?**

WrestleMania is our Super Bowl, and it has evolved along with WWE. Today, our fans demand more, and people literally come from all over the world to be part of it. *WrestleMania* is now an entire week of events designed to make our fans smile. From *WrestleMania Axxess*, where fans can interact with our Superstars and Divas, to giving back to the host community itself with hospital visits and Be a STAR anti-bullying rallies, to the Hall of

Fame Induction Ceremony, and much more, it is a week of nonstop action, and we work tirelessly to create an experience that is worthy of our fans' passion.

What are you most proud of, in terms of the evolution of *WrestleMania*?

I'm proud of the contributions my family has made to the industry. My dad, Vince McMahon, had the vision for the greatest sports-entertainment and pop-culture phenomenon in history, and he

called it *WrestleMania*. But how could he broadcast to more people live than the capacity crowd in Madison Square Garden? He did it by offering *WrestleMania* on closed-circuit television, pioneering the pay-per-view industry and launching WWE into a global brand seen in 150 countries and translated into 30 languages. Now, Vince McMahon is making history again with *WrestleMania XXX*. Not only will we emanate live from the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, but it will stream live on WWE's very own network. Many people would have been happy with one revolutionary business endeavor that changed how people consume content. Not my dad. WWE Network is the first-ever 24/7 streaming network featuring all 12 WWE pay-per-views, including *WrestleMania*, for the unprecedented value of \$9.99 per month.* That's a lot to be proud of.

With all the pressure and stress of putting on this epic event, what are the little things that stand out to you? Is there something you get excited about every year when that show goes on that we might not know about?

There is a majesty about *WrestleMania*—and it's something

you cannot put into words. I'm overwhelmed every time I step into the stadium, and I look at how the environment has been transformed. I look at the Superstars and Divas around the ring, and I think about all of those who paved the way for them. I think about my dad at Gorilla position, "directing traffic," as he likes to say, Kevin Dunn in the production truck, and my husband competing in the ring. And I think about every fan watching around the world and how each of us is connected to that given moment in history and how it means something different to every one of us. It is an indescribable feeling, but it is that feeling I look forward to the most.

Any chance you'd get in the ring one more time on *The Grandest Stage of Them All*?

Who wouldn't want to compete at *WrestleMania*? In all seriousness, I have been fortunate enough to have participated in *WrestleMania* in the past, something that many men and women aspire to do their entire career. If that opportunity ever arose again, it would have to be what's "Best for Business."

So—what, then, do you consider your "*WrestleMania* Moment"?

My *WrestleMania* moment would have to be at *WrestleMania 2000*, in the Four Way Elimination Match for the WWE Championship. There was a "McMahon in every corner" and I was supporting "my husband" Triple H. I had been the most power-hungry, rude, obnoxious, hateful person, the "Billion Dollar Princess," and after months and months of buildup, someone had to put me in my place. And that person was The Rock. To have been part of that main event, and participate in The Rock and Triple H's storyline in any way, was truly an honor and a moment I will never forget.

And has The Rock ever apologized to you for that?
No, I deserved it.



Stephanie takes matters into her own hands at *WrestleMania 2000*.

*(with a six-month commitment)

**“WrestleMania is our Super Bowl,
and it has evolved along with WWE.
Today our fans demand more, and
people literally come from all
over the world to be part of it.”**

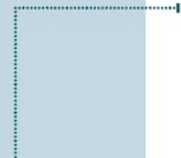
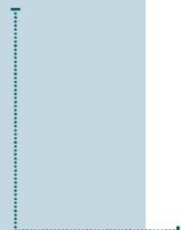
30 YEARS

WrestleMania allows a Superstar to become immortal. From Shawn Michaels fulfilling a boyhood dream to John Cena earning redemption after a year of trials—*everyone* steps up his or her game on The Grandest Stage! Check out this crash course on all you need to know about the first 29 Show of Shows, complete with Most Valuable Superstars, an exclusive look into the *WrestleMania* archives, shocking stats and more!

YOUR GUIDE TO THIS SECTION

MOMENTS

Relive the high-lights, upsets, and epic bouts from every Show of Shows with these moments that forever changed the WWE landscape and made *WrestleMania* a phenomenon.



MVS

We name the Most Valuable Superstars who shined the brightest and pulled off the most monumental victories—even the moral ones—that still have the WWE Universe talking.



The WrestleMania when The Chairman went bald...



The Battle of the Billionaires Mr. McMahon couldn't hide as Austin, Lashley and Trump shaved his head.



Money In The Bank Crazy as ever, Jeff Hardy leaped 20 feet to send Edge crashing through a ladder.

FROM THE VAULT

THE SCENE OF THE CRIME



Despite Mr. McMahon's best efforts, he couldn't escape this barber's chair as he became a bald billionaire.

WINNERS

Your quick reference to the Superstars and Divas who stood victorious upon installment of The Grandest Stage of Them All. Be prepared to see a lot of Undertaker in this area.

FROM THE VAULT

Dig into the archives to discover the treasures of *WrestleMania's* past. Find out how these legendary artifacts, like a barber's chair, played into The Show of Shows' legacy.

MVS JOHN CENA

Midway through a hard-fought match against Shawn Michaels, Cena walked right into Sweet Chin Music. The rivals were so exhausted, they balanced on each other to rise to their feet, but The Champ caught a second wind, hoisting HBK into an AA, and when Michaels slid out of position, swiftly locked in the STF. For the third-consecutive year, Cena left *WrestleMania* with the WWE Title.



PUNJABI EXPRESS



The Great Khali traveled 7,367 miles from his native India to defeat Kane in his *Mania* debut.



SHUTTERSTOCK

72 **WRESTLEMANIA XXX**
NEW ORLEANS, LA • APRIL 6

STATS

We break out the calculators and charts to compile startling statistics and fantastic facts for the first 29 *WrestleManias*. See, math can be cool!

WRESTLEMANIA



01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

The WrestleMania when a legend started...



Hulk Hogan & Mr. T/Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff The main event that began worldwide phenomenon saw a Rowdy Superstar learn a lesson in humility.

FROM THE VAULT

BOX OFFICE SMASH



More than 19,000 attended the first *WrestleMania* with a ticket like this.

MVS MR. McMAHON

Many Superstars came away with big victories at the inaugural *WrestleMania*, but nobody's was bigger than The Chairman's. *WM* kicked off an event of epic proportions. The Grandest Stage would go on to become the biggest sports-entertainment event annually, making its way into pop culture and putting WWE on the map.



MSG'S EPIC PPVS

Madison Square Garden has hosted three *WrestleManias*, including the premiere event in 1985, tied for the most of any venue.

HOMEFIELD
ALREADY A WWE STAPLE, THE GARDEN MADE FOR A CLEAR HOME TO *WM*!





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The WrestleMania when large wasn't in charge...



Hulk Hogan/King Kong Bundy The Hulkster overcame a size disadvantage in the only Steel Cage Match, and first WWE Championship Match, at *WrestleMania*.

FROM THE VAULT KNOCK YOU OUT

Roddy Piper's used a bodyslam instead of these boxing gloves to earn a DQ in his *WM2* matchup with Mr. T.



TIPPING THE SCALES

Andre the Giant defeated approximately 5,190 pounds of WWE Superstars and NFL players to win a 20-Man Battle Royal.

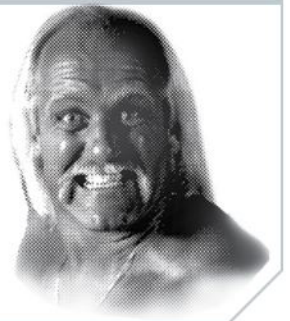
ANDRE OUTLASTED:

5,190 POUNDS



MVS HULK HOGAN

WrestleMania 2 main events spread across the country in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles, but no victory was more impressive than Hulk Hogan's. King Kong Bundy alone would be enough of an obstacle, but The Hulkster proved he wouldn't be stopped, winning a brutal Cage Match and flooring his much larger adversary.



WRESTLEMANIA III



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The WrestleMania when the immovable met the unstoppable...



Ricky Steamboat/Randy Savage "The Dragon" and "Macho Man" put on a performance for the ages.



Hulk Hogan/Andre the Giant The Hulkster left the crowd in awe, slamming the 7'4", 520-pound giant.

FROM THE VAULT

MADE FOR STOMPIN'



"King" Harley Race wore these boots when he defeated Junkyard Dog in the first "Loser Must Bow" Match.

MVS RICKY STEAMBOAT

Not only did Ricky Steamboat win the Intercontinental Championship and silence the boastful Randy Savage, but their *WM III* title bout is arguably the greatest in the history of sports-entertainment. Steamboat and "Macho Man" put on a clinic for future Superstars everywhere, and it doesn't hurt that "The Dragon" took home some championship gold in the process.



COOPER'S GREATEST HITS

Alice Cooper, who accompanied Jake "The Snake" Roberts at *WM III*, reached the top ten on Billboard's Hot 100 Chart with "Poison" and "School's Out."



7

COOPER'S
BEST
HIT 7 ON
BILLBOARD

WRESTLEMANIA IV



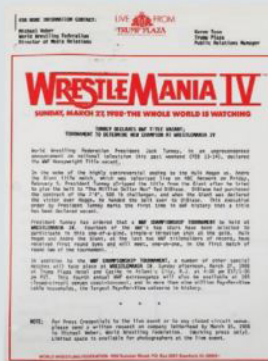
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The WrestleMania when money couldn't buy gold...



The WWE Championship Tournament Despite Ted DiBiase trying to use his bank account to secure the WWE Championship, Savage won four bouts to clinch the vacant title.

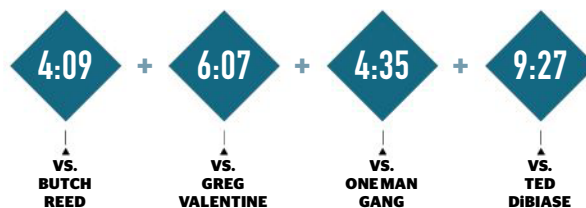
FROM THE VAULT PUBLIC RELATIONS



Straight from the desk of Jack Tunney, WWE published this press release to announce the *WrestleMania IV* Tournament for the vacated WWE Championship and the fact that "the whole world" was indeed watching.

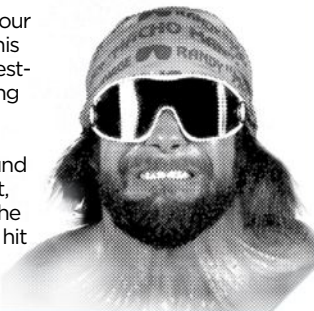
MACHO'S MARATHON

Randy Savage won four matches at *WM/IV*, competing for a total of 24:18 to win the vacant WWE Championship.



MVS RANDY SAVAGE

"Macho Man" contested four matches in one night on his road to the WWE Title, besting WWE's finest, including Ted DiBiase. The Million-Dollar Man gained the advantage in the final round thanks to Andre the Giant, but Hulk Hogan evened the odds, allowing Savage to hit a long elbow drop to win Jack Tunney's tourney.



WRESTLEMANIA V



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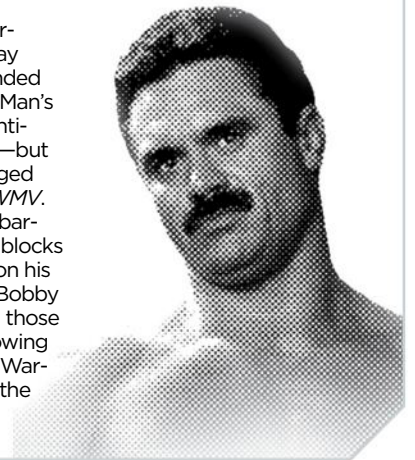
The WrestleMania when “Brain” conquered brawn...



Rick Rude/Ultimate Warrior Thanks to an assist from Bobby “The Brain” Heenan, Rude became the first Superstar to pin The Ultimate Warrior, taking the Intercontinental Title.

MVS RICK RUDE

The Ultimate Warrior was a runaway train—he even ended The Honky Tonk Man’s 64-week Intercontinental Title reign—but Rick Rude managed to derail him at *WMV*. Rude survived a barrage of shoulder blocks to keep Warrior on his toes. Ultimately, Bobby Heenan grabbed those toes, though, allowing Rude to counter Warrior’s suplex into the deciding pinfall.



WALKING DISASTERS

Demolition retained the World Tag Titles at *WMV* and stretched their reign to record-setting proportions.



The Rockers/Twin Towers “Mr. *WrestleMania*” made his Show of Shows debut, kicking off a legendary career with a loss to two much larger foes.



Hulk Hogan/Randy Savage The Hulkster regained his place at the top by besting the other half of the former Mega Powers and taking back the WWE Title.

478
DAYS

LONGEST-EVER
DEMOLITION
REIGN FOR
478 DAYS



WRESTLEMANIA VI



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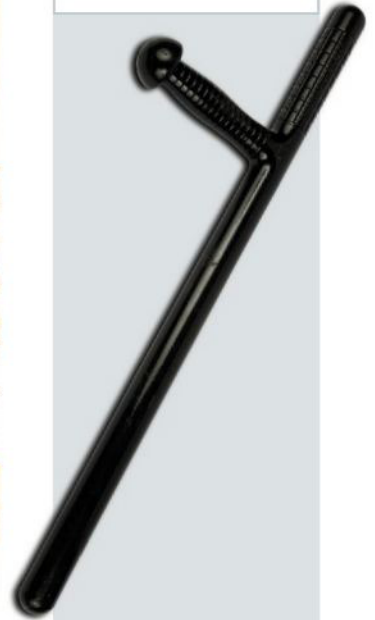
The WrestleMania when forces faced off...



Toronto *WrestleMania VI* was the first to take place outside the United States. Plus, a teenaged Edge and Christian cheered on the action from the crowd. Oh, Canada!

FROM THE VAULT

RESPECT THE STICK



Akeem did hard time against former partner Big Boss Man, thanks to this nightstick.

MVS THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

In a match that was deemed "The Ultimate Challenge," The Ultimate Warrior came out golden. The Warrior did the unthinkable when he kicked out of The Hulkster's big boot and splashed Hogan to retain his Intercontinental Title and become the new WWE Champion, too.



ULTIMATE CHAMPION

With his win against Hulk Hogan, The Ultimate Warrior became the first—and still only—Superstar to hold the Intercontinental and WWE Championships simultaneously.

I-C CHAMP
WARRIOR RETAINED TO BECOME FIRST DOUBLE CHAMP



WWE CHAMP
WARRIOR ENDED HOGAN'S ONE-YEAR TITLE REIGN.



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The WrestleMania when America ran wild...



Hulk Hogan/Sgt. Slaughter The Hulkster defended his country from flag desecrator Sgt. Slaughter.



Hart Foundation/Nasty Boys WMVII marked the last time the Original Hart Foundation teamed together.

MVS HULK HOGAN



A year after losing everything to The Ultimate Warrior, Hulk Hogan found himself back on top of WWE. When Sgt. Slaughter slandered his country and dishonored the American flag, no man stepped up faster than The Hulkster. Not only did he fight for America, but he also won the WWE Championship for the third time, another feat that had never been accomplished.

FROM THE VAULT CITIZEN CANE

Legendary manager Mr. Fuji stood in Demolition's corner with his signature cane for their final *WrestleMania* match.



CHROMATIC CHAMPIONS

The WWE Title came in all colors between WMVI and WMVII, with black, blue, white, and purple straps. Who won which?



- 
BLACK
 WMVI
 ULTIMATE
 WARRIOR
- 
LIGHT BLUE
 '90
 SUMMERSLAM
 WARRIOR
- 
WHITE
 '90 SURVIVOR
 SERIES
 WARRIOR
- 
PURPLE
 '91 ROYAL
 RUMBLE
 SLAUGHTER



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The WrestleMania when Macho Madness rolled on...



Ric Flair/Randy Savage The Nature Boy's attempts to drive a wedge in between "Macho Man" and Miss Elizabeth failed, as Savage defeated Flair with a roll-up to win the WWE Title.

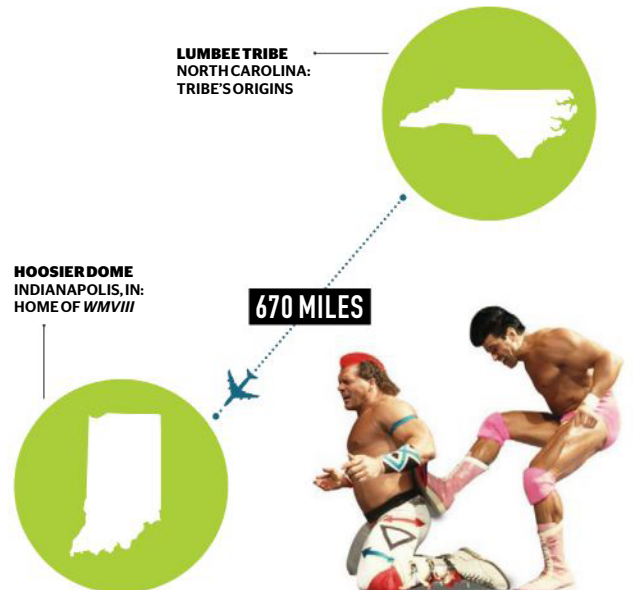
MVS RANDY SAVAGE

Randy Savage came back with a vengeance in 1992 after being forced to retire at WMVII. Ric Flair tried to put the brakes on "Macho Madness," using *WWE Magazine* to release pictures of him and Miss Elizabeth together, but Savage ultimately prevailed over the player's dirty tricks to become the third multi-time WWE Champion ever.



MILES TRAVELED

Members of the Lumbee tribe came 670 miles to the Hoosier Dome to support Tatanka against Rick Martel.





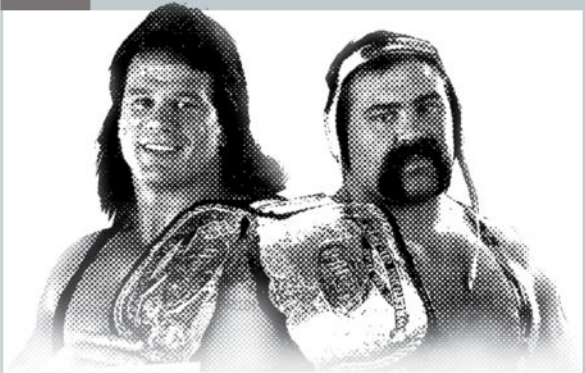
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The WrestleMania when hubris cost the champ...



Yokozuna/Bret Hart Yokozuna beat The Hitman for the WWE Championship, but Mr. Fuji's challenge to Hulk Hogan proved to be too much, as The Hulkster left with the title.

MVS THE STEINER BROTHERS



The Headshrinkers were one of the toughest, hardest-hitting, and hardest-headed teams on the scene—head-butts wouldn't even faze them—but that didn't scare away Rick and Scott Steiner. Thanks to Rick's amazing reversal of the Doomsday Device into a powerslam from atop Fatu's shoulders and Scott's decisive Frankensteiner, the gritty brothers won their first and only *WrestleMania* bout in impressive fashion.

DOUBLE HEADERS

Tournaments and Cruiserweight Opens aside, only three Superstars have competed multiple times in one night at WM.



Togas In honor of *WMIX* being held at Las Vegas' Caesars Palace, there were togas aplenty. Even Good Ol' Jim Ross, making his WWE debut, wore one!



Animal entrances Bobby Heenan entered the stadium riding a camel (backward) and an ominous vulture accompanied Undertaker to ringside.



**BRET
HART**
1-1
WMX

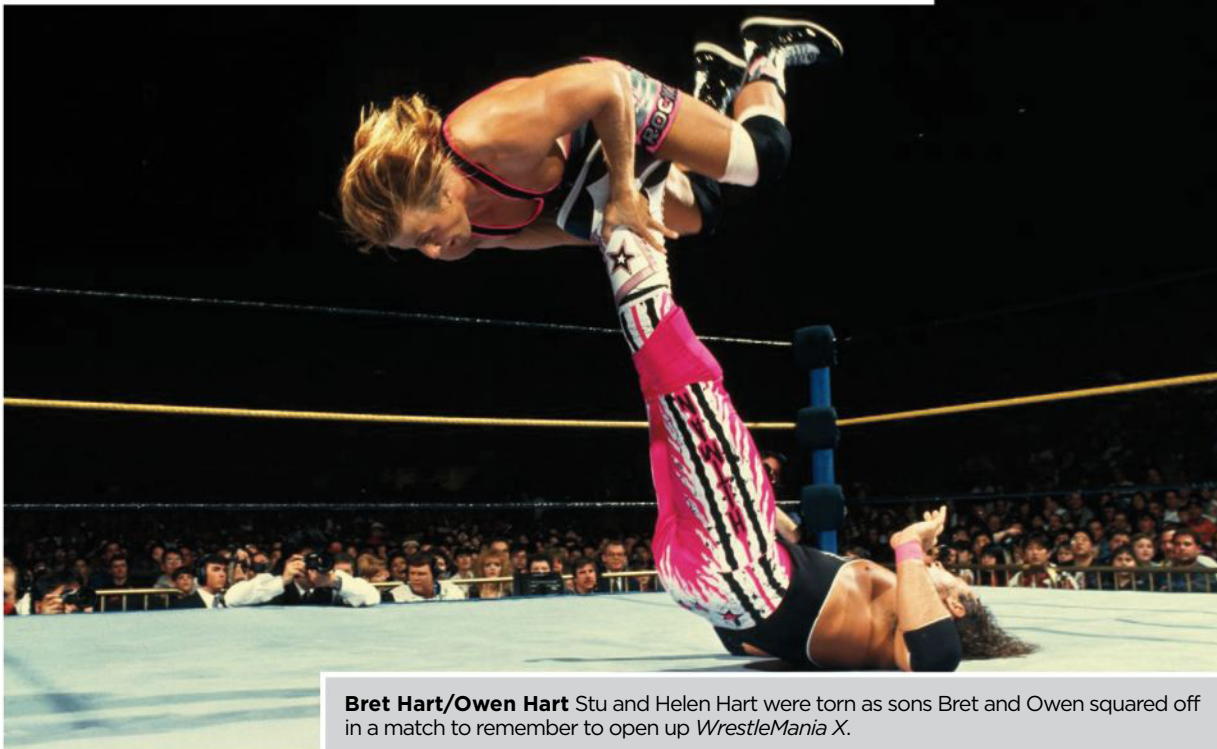
**HULK
HOGAN**
1-1
WMIX

YOKZUNA
1-1, 1-1
WMIX, WMX



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The WrestleMania when Bret pulled double-duty...



Bret Hart/Owen Hart Stu and Helen Hart were torn as sons Bret and Owen squared off in a match to remember to open up *WrestleMania X*.

FROM THE VAULT

DIG IT?!



The incomparable Randy Savage wore this gear in his final WWE bout at WMX.

MVS BRET HART

Not only did Bret Hart compete twice at The Show of Shows, but he also avenged his *WMIX* loss to Yokozuna. Sure, he might have lost to his brother Owen earlier in the evening, but at the end of the night, he walked out of Madison Square Garden on the shoulders of the entire WWE locker room with the WWE Championship.



FEAR OF HEIGHTS

Only 46 percent of titleholders retained their respective championships when defended on PPV in a Ladder Match.

A'MANIA FIRST
RAZOR RAMON & HBK BOTH CLAIMED TO BE I-C CHAMP, PROMPTING A LADDER BOUT.





01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

The WrestleMania when big men reigned supreme...



Diesel/Shawn Michaels Good friends became better enemies when Big Daddy Cool beat Royal Rumble Match winner Shawn Michaels to retain the WWE Championship.



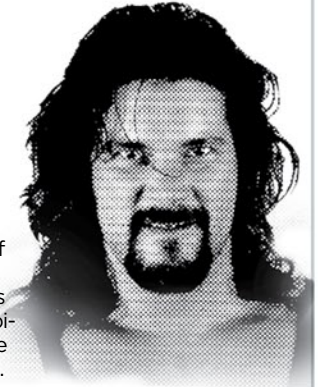
Lawrence Taylor/Bam Bam Bigelow Lawrence Taylor (Whatta man!), Bam Bam Bigelow and Salt-N-Pepa made for a star-studded main event.



Owen Hart & Yokozuna/The Smoking Gunns The Rocket revealed his more-than-500-pound mystery partner Yokozuna and won the Tag Team Titles.

MVS DIESEL

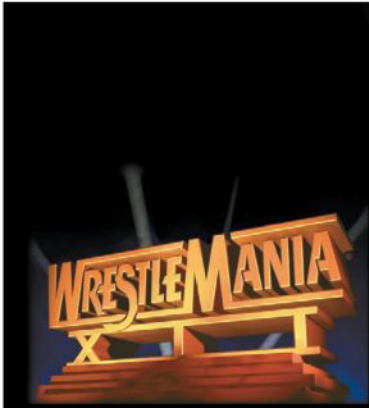
It may have been Diesel's lone *WrestleMania* title match, but the big man was on top of the world in Hartford, Connecticut. Accompanied to the ring by *Baywatch*'s lovely Pamela Anderson (which is something alone for the WWE Universe to be jealous of), Big Daddy Cool fended off his quicker, more agile former friend Shawn Michaels to retain the WWE Championship and walk out of The Show of Shows still on top. Clearly, friendship is over-rated if you've got gold.



FROM THE VAULT ASHES TO ASHES



Kama claimed to melt Undertaker's urn, but we found the real urn from *WrestleMania XI* in the archives.



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The WrestleMania when WWE went into overtime...

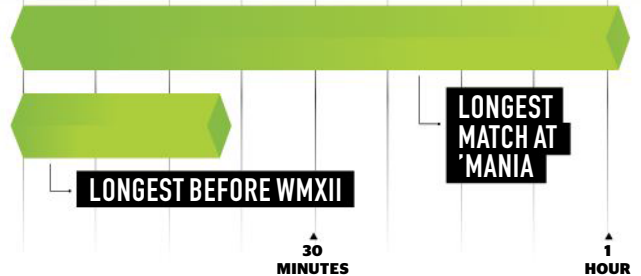


Shawn Michaels/Bret Hart The Heartbreak Kid and "The Hitman" raised the bar for endurance and rivalries in WWE's first Iron Man Match at *WrestleMania XII*.

MARATHON MAN

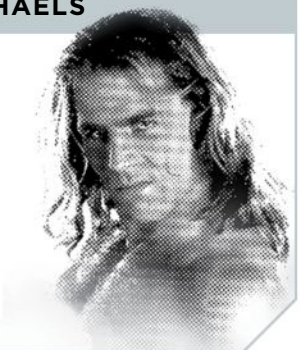
HBK contested in the longest match in *WM* history, clocking in at 1 hour, 1 minute and 52 seconds.

BEFORE WMXII
HBK'S LONGEST
WM MATCH WAS
ONLY 21 MINUTES.



MVS SHAWN MICHAELS

Shawn Michaels reached the next level at *WMXII*. Not only was he a pioneer, wrestling in the first Iron Man Match against rival Bret Hart, but he also won the WWE Title for the first time in his illustrious career. It took overtime for either Superstar to score a pinfall, but after 1:01:52, HBK hit Sweet Chin Music to win the championship gold.





4

Rumble Match winners to not compete for the WWE Title at that year's WM, including Austin at WM13.

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The WrestleMania when a blue-chipper arrived...



Rocky Maivia/The Sultan Rocky Johnson came to the aid of his son Rocky Maivia, who won his *WrestleMania* debut, to fend off a post-match attack by Sultan and Iron Sheik.

FROM THE VAULT

FIRST FACE OF FOLEY



This terrifying mask made its *WrestleMania* debut when Mankind teamed with Vader.

MVS BRET HART

Yes, Undertaker won the WWE Title, but it wasn't without Bret Hart's help. Earlier in the night, "The Hitman" wrestled in a brutal No Disqualification Submission Match and made Stone Cold Steve Austin pass out to get the win. Then he attacked Sycho Sid three times during the main event. Hart's dark side finally came out.



THE LOST SOULS

Undertaker laid to rest 22 opponents—some in rematches—of all shapes and sizes at WM, totaling 6,460 pounds.





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The WrestleMania when brothers clashed...



Undertaker/Kane The Deadman returned to get retribution on his younger brother, Kane, for The Big Red Monster's betrayal at *Royal Rumble*.



Cactus Jack & Chainsaw Charlie/New Age Outlaws In WM's only Dumpster Match, Cactus & Chainsaw took out the trash that was Road Dogg and Billy Gunn.



Steve Austin/Mike Tyson/Shawn Michaels The Austin Era began as Stone Cold's hard work finally paid off—and Mike Tyson KO'd The Heartbreak Kid.

MVS LEGION OF DOOM



Fifteen teams crowded the ring for the largest Battle Royals in *WrestleMania* history. But even more special is The Legion of Doom coming back as the mystery guests—now with Sunny in their corner and called L.O.D 2000—and winning that melee. The bruisers wouldn't be stopped in their triumphant return, last eliminating The New Midnight Express to stand tall. One of the toughest things to do as a career wears on is adapt, and that's exactly what Hawk and Animal did at WMX/IV.

STONE COLD EAGLE

Stone Cold Steve Austin became the 27th and last Superstar to hold the WWE Championship design featuring "The Eagle."



END OF AN ERA
THE TITLE DESIGN
FIRST APPEARED
ON A 1988 EPISODE
OF SATURDAY
NIGHT'S MAINEVENT
WITH HULK HOGAN.



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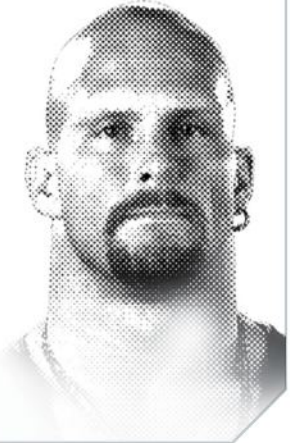
The WrestleMania when a legendary rivalry began...



Stone Cold/The Rock The Attitude Era's megastars, Stone Cold Steve Austin and The Brahma Bull, battled in the first of their three *WrestleMania* matches in Philadelphia.

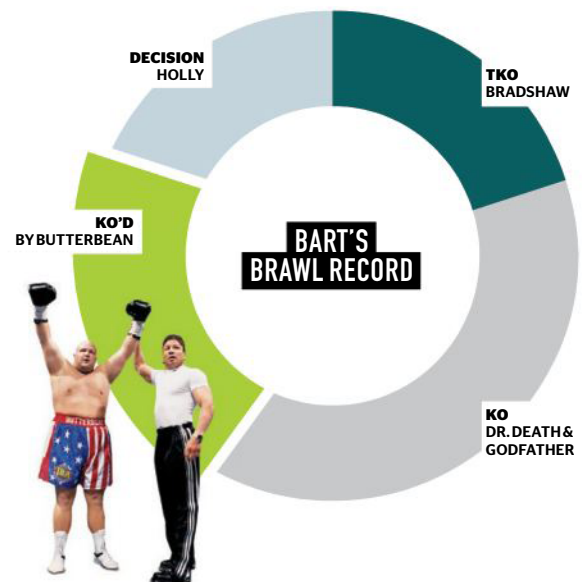
MVS STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

Stone Cold Steve Austin made it back-to-back WWE Championship wins at *WrestleMania* after besting Shawn Michaels at *WMXIV* and The Rock at *WMXV*. In a brawl that saw a broken Spanish announce table, interference from Mr. McMahon on The Great One's behalf and three referees go down—only for Mankind to finish the match as guest official—Austin overcame The Corporation's meddling to become WWE Champion yet again, much to The Chairman's chagrin.



GUNNING FOR BART

Gunn won Brawl-For-All with 2 KOs, a TKO & 1 Decision, but Butterbean put a damper on things with an emphatic *WM* KO.



WRESTLEMANIA 2000



01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

The WrestleMania when a family was divided...



WWE Championship Fatal Four Way Each member of the McMahon family stood in a different corner in the night's Fatal Four Way main event.



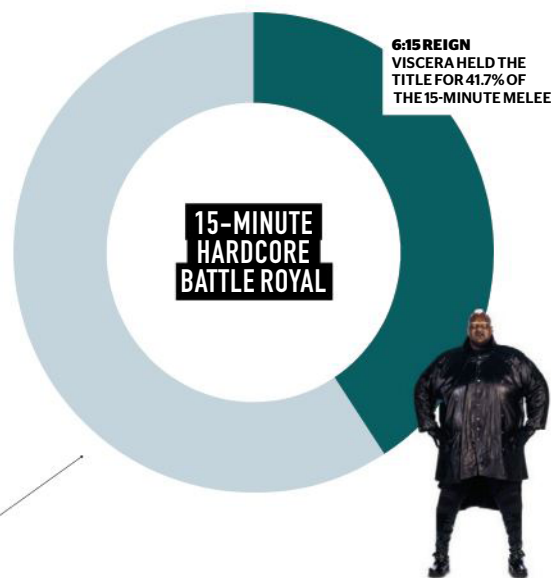
Kane & Rikishi/Road Dogg & X-Pac
The mammoth team of Kane & Rikishi made quick work of Road Dogg & X-Pac. Two words? Total domination!



Hardcore Battle Royal The Hardcore Championship changed hands 10 times in a Battle Royal, with Hardcore Holly standing with the gold at the end.

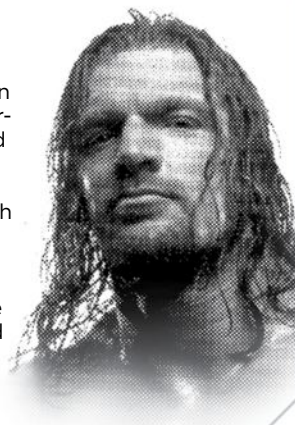
HARDCORE MAYHEM

In the 15-minute Hardcore Battle Royal, which saw 10 title changes, Viscera had the longest reign at 6:15.



MVS TRIPLE H

Triple H made plenty of enemies as WWE Champion in 2000, but give The Game credit, he faced down three of the toughest Superstars in the locker room and overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to hold onto his championship. With help from father-in-law Mr. McMahon—who betrayed The Rock—and his wife Stephanie in his corner, The Cerebral Assassin navigated his way through Big Show, Mick Foley and The Great One to bring *WrestleMania* into the new century.



WRESTLEMANIA X-SEVEN



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The WrestleMania when highlight reels were filled...



Edge & Christian/The Hardys/The Dudleys With moments like Edge spearing Jeff Hardy in air, TLC raised the bar for all future Ladder Matches.



The McMahons Sorry, Carl Winslow—family hardly matters at WM, as Shane defeated his father in a Street Fight.



Hardcore Triple Threat Big Show, Kane and Raven literally tore the house down—with a golf cart—over the Hardcore Title.

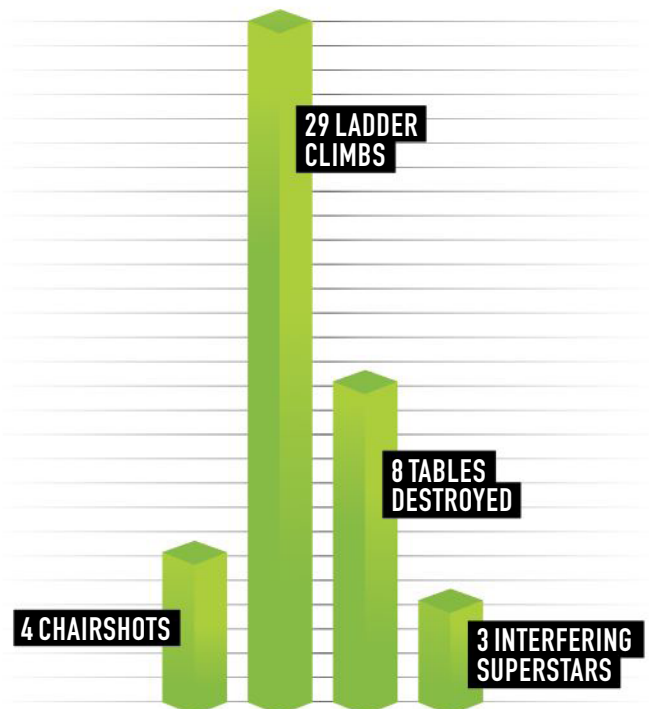
MVS SHANE McMAHON

His father and foe, Mr. McMahon, may have built 'Mania, but Shane-O Mac did everything he could to spoil his dad's first match at The Show of Shows. First Shane intercepted The Chairman's purchase of WCW, but that pales in comparison to the Coast-to-Coast he gave to his pops on The Grandest Stage of Them All.



TLC TURMOIL

WrestleMania X-Seven's TLC Match featured 29 ladder climbs, four chairshots, eight tables destroyed and three interfering Superstars (Rhyno, Lita, and Spike Dudley).





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The WrestleMania when generations clashed...



Hollywood Hogan/The Rock Eras collided as Hollywood Hogan and The Rock met in a dream matchup. Hulkamania returned to the WM stage, but The Great One prevailed.

FROM THE VAULT

HOMETOWN HERO



Trish Stratus gave Toronto some serious Stratusfaction with this Canadian flag jacket.

MVS THE ROCK

No one is more associated with the early main events of *WrestleMania* than Hollywood Hogan. So when he returned to the WM spotlight after nine years away, it stacked the odds against The Rock. Nostalgia kicked in for the Toronto crowd, but The Great One dodged an Atomic Legdrop to land a deciding People's Elbow.



POST-INVASION

The first 'Mania after the ECW/WCW Invasion featured nine Superstars from WCW's final days and three from ECW's.



9 WCW
ALUMS



3 ECW
ALUMS



01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

The WrestleMania when Shooting Stars shone...



Brock Lesnar/Kurt Angle Lesnar threw caution in the wind to defeat Angle, a fellow amateur wrestling legend.



Stone Cold Steve Austin/The Rock The Great One finally bested Austin at WM after three Rock Bottoms.

FROM THE VAULT

HBK-INSPIRED

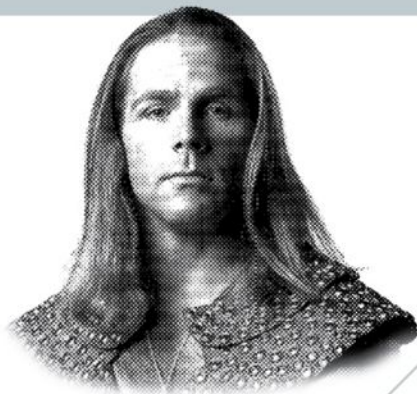


Chris Jericho took a cue from his opponent Shawn Michaels with this colorful entrance jacket.

MVS

SHAWN MICHAELS

Shawn Michaels came to *WrestleMania XIV* with two herniated disks in his back, but still competed valiantly. Five years later, "Mr. *WrestleMania*" returned to The Grandest Show of Them All to tear the house down with Chris Jericho. Surviving multiple Walls of Jericho and winning with a roll-up, The Showstopper proved "ring rust" and "Michaels" shouldn't appear in the same sentence—well, except for this one.



SHOWSTOPPER RETURNS

Shawn Michaels missed four years of action after *WMXIV*, not contesting another *WrestleMania* match for 1,827 days.



1,827
DAYS

TIME UNTIL
"MR. WM"
RETURNED





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The WrestleMania when love conquered nothing...



Chris Jericho/Christian Trish Stratus capped a heartbreaking loss with some "Stratus-faction" for Chris Jericho (sorta) by slapping him and kissing his opponent, Christian.

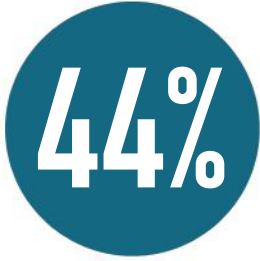
FROM THE VAULT LIE, CHEAT, HEEL



Kurt Angle accidentally pulled off Eddie Guerrero's boot, enabling Latino Heat to roll him up for the pinfall.

CRUISERWEIGHT TRADITION

Forty-four percent of the competitors in WMXX's Cruiserweight Open also held the Cruiserweight Title in WCW.



MVS EDDIE GUERRERO

Eddie Guerrero entered *WrestleMania XX* as WWE Champion, but few trusted he'd walk out with the title after his match against Kurt Angle. But Guerrero's trademark cunning ultimately gave him the edge. Latino Heat loosened his boot, ensuring that when Angle attempted the Ankle Lock, he could slip free.





514

Weight (in pounds) of sumo wrestler Akebono, who defeated Big Show in the only Sumo Match at WM.

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The WrestleMania when the future stepped up...



Randy Orton/Undertaker "The Legend Killer" nearly ended The Streak when he reversed a Chokeslam into an RKO, proving he was a true player in WWE.

MVS BATISTA



As Batista's popularity surged, he quickly realized Triple H would do everything to suppress his rise to glory. Batista targeted The Game at *WrestleMania 21*, withstanding all of Triple H and Ric Flair's dirty tricks to dish out pain. Triple H was seemingly unbeatable, but The Animal unleashed destruction to walk away with his first World Title and end Triple H's reign of terror.

FROM THE VAULT TEXAS-STYLE LUXURY



JBL arrived at *WrestleMania 21* with class, thanks to his white limousine, which featured this bullhorn ornament.

CHAMPS UNLEASHED

Batista and John Cena embarked on their first World Title reigns at *WM21*, with both ultimately ending two days apart.



CENA'S TITLE REIGN

BATISTA'S TITLE REIGN



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The WrestleMania when the unthinkable occurred...



John Cena/Triple H An electric crowd greeted two megastars as Cena withstood a sledgehammer shot to retain his WWE Championship with the STF.



Edge/Mick Foley These two future WWE Hall of Famers rewrote "extreme," but never more so than when Edge Speared Foley through a burning table.

MVS

REY MYSTERIO

WWE's "biggest little man" faced daunting odds at WM22, challenging Olympic gold medalist Kurt Angle and Randy Orton, but the '06 Royal Rumble winner wouldn't be deterred. Mysterio survived Angle's Ankle Lock and Orton's sneaky tactics, before connecting with the 619 to become the shortest World Champ in WWE history.



RINGSIDE VEHICLES

John Cena's entrance featured a gangster car. Other WM autos include Honky Tonk's pink Cadillac, Steve Austin's ATV and ring carts.



FROM THE VAULT

DEADMAN'S CHEST



WrestleMania's only Casket Match—between Undertaker and Mark Henry—warranted a giant-sized coffin.

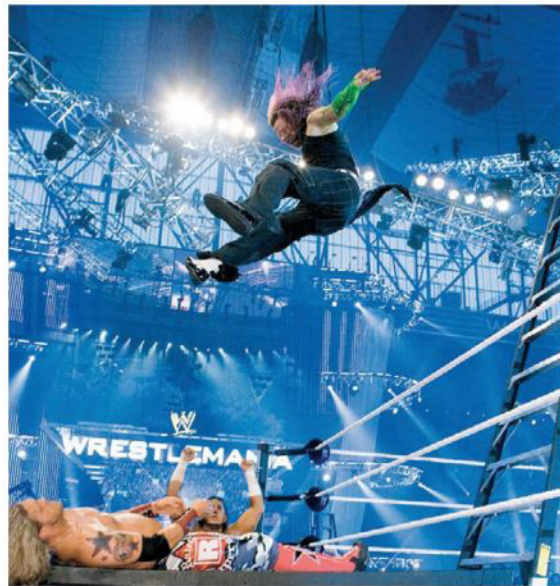


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The WrestleMania when The Chairman went bald...



The Battle of the Billionaires Mr. McMahon couldn't hide as Austin, Lashley and Trump shaved his head.



Money in The Bank Crazy as ever, Jeff Hardy leaped 20 feet to send Edge crashing through a ladder.

FROM THE VAULT

THE SCENE OF THE CRIME



Despite Mr. McMahon's best efforts, he couldn't escape this barber's chair as he became a bald billionaire.

MVS JOHN CENA

Midway through a hard-fought match against Shawn Michaels, Cena walked right into Sweet Chin Music. The rivals were so exhausted, they balanced on each other to rise to their feet, but The Champ caught a second wind, hoisting HBK into an AA, and when Michaels slid out of position, swiftly locked in the STF. For the third-consecutive year, Cena left *WrestleMania* with the WWE Title.



PUNJABI EXPRESS



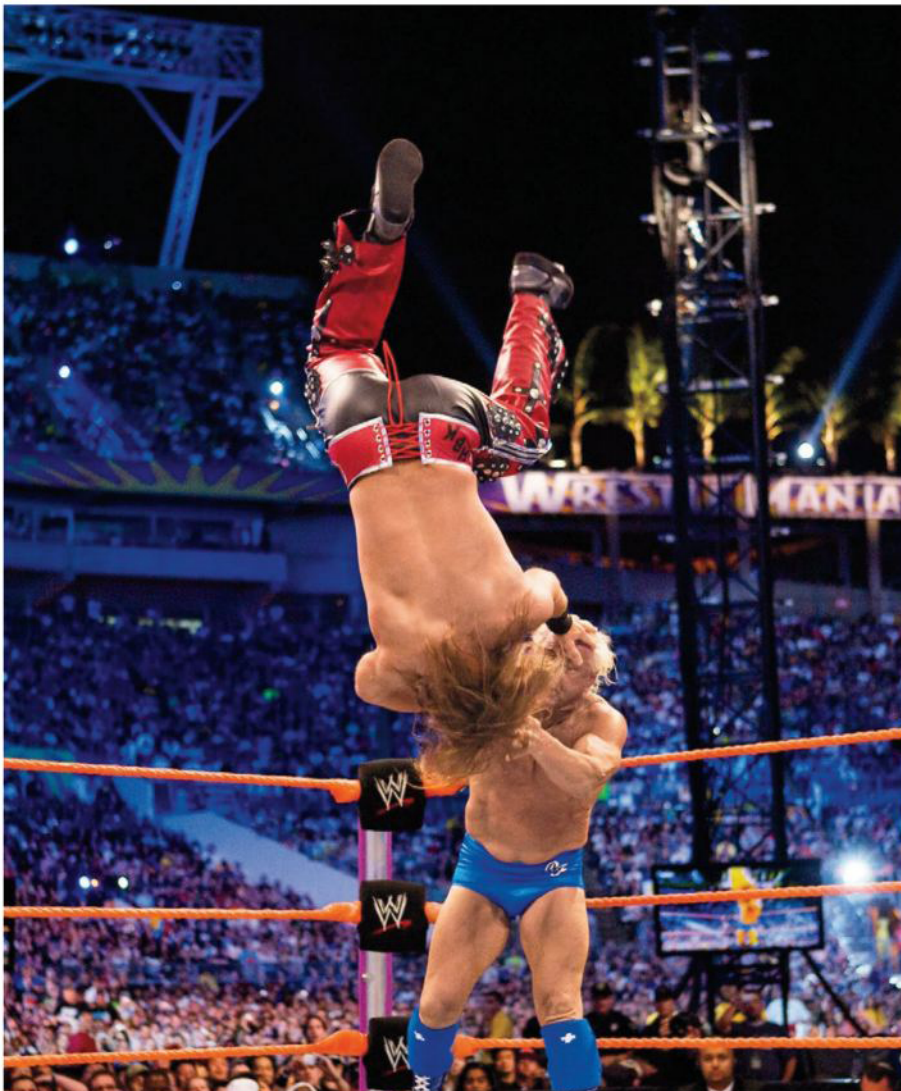
The Great Khali traveled 7,367 miles from his native India to defeat Kane in his 'Mania debut.





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The WrestleMania when Flair left Heartbroken...



Shawn Michaels vs. Ric Flair The Nature Boy finished his career with an instant classic, proving he'll always be the gold standard in sports-entertainment.

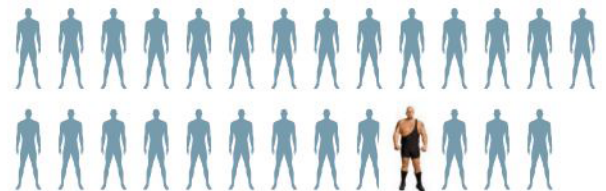
FROM THE VAULT STREAK ROCKER



Edge achieved rock-star status in Orlando, FL, when he strutted to the ring in this badass garment.

MUST BE THE MONEY...

Including his brass-knuckles-assisted WMXXIV knockout of Big Show, Floyd "Money" Mayweather boasts 27 career KOs.



MVS THE NATURE BOY

The night after he entered the WWE Hall of Fame, Ric Flair gave one last Hall-worthy performance. "Naitch" survived everything Shawn Michaels dished out, and even connected with a crossbody! Despite falling to a third Sweet Chin Music, Flair's performance is one the WWE Universe still talks about today.





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The WrestleMania when luck struck from above...



Money In The Bank CM Punk survived utter chaos—in a Ladder Match that included Hornswoggle jumping on the whole field—to grab his second MITB briefcase.



John Cena/Big Show/Edge The Champ's strength reached ridiculous territory as he hit a 682-pound AA.



Jeff/Matt Hardy The brothers used everything but the kitchen sink—even a framed *WWE Mag*—to be the most extreme.

MVS RICKY STEAMBOAT

Rarely does the defeated leave a mark so indelible that people can't stop but sing his praises. The 56-year-old Ricky Steamboat battled the brash Chris Jericho with the same poise and athleticism he did 22 years ago versus Randy Savage, though. "The Dragon" discovered the Fountain of Youth—it must have been somewhere in Houston.



LONGHORN'S LAST STAND

JBL's match against Rey Mysterio clocked in at only 0:21, causing the Texan to retire in a fury.



FROM THE VAULT HEAVEN & HELL



Shawn Michaels countered the demonic side of Undertaker with this heavenly, all-white attire.



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The WrestleMania when Shawn Michaels retired...



Undertaker/Shawn Michaels HBK stole the show one last time, with another instant 'Mania classic versus 'Taker.



Edge/Chris Jericho Despite losing to Y2J, Edge got some retribution by Spearing him into the barricade.

MVS UNDERTAKER



Shawn Michaels and Undertaker recaptured the magic from their match at The 25th Anniv. of *WrestleMania*, as HBK battled with his career on the line. But The Deadman survived everything Michaels threw his way, including a moonsault through the announce table. In true Showstopper style, Michaels refused to go quietly, taunting Undertaker into a rage to force a final Tombstone.

FROM THE VAULT HOOK 'EM, RHODES

Cody Rhodes prepared this University of Texas-colored gear for Houston, but couldn't debut it until 'Mania XXVI.



Y2J PROBLEM

Five Superstars competed at both *WM2000* and *WMXXVI*—10 years later—and only Chris Jericho and Triple H won at both.



CHRIS JERICHO & TRIPLE H
ONLY TO WIN AT BOTH



- 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

The WrestleMania when Edge exited...



Edge/Alberto Del Rio Edge unexpectedly contested his last match and took his final bow as World Heavyweight Champion alongside best friend Christian.

FROM THE VAULT BATTLE-READY



An epic battle against Undertaker and his Streak required an epic war mask for The King of Kings, Triple H.

GAME ON!

Triple H returned after 303 days of inaction, raining on Undertaker's 2/21/11 return.



INACTIVITY LENGTH

0 DAYS 100 DAYS 200 DAYS 300 DAYS

MVS EDGE

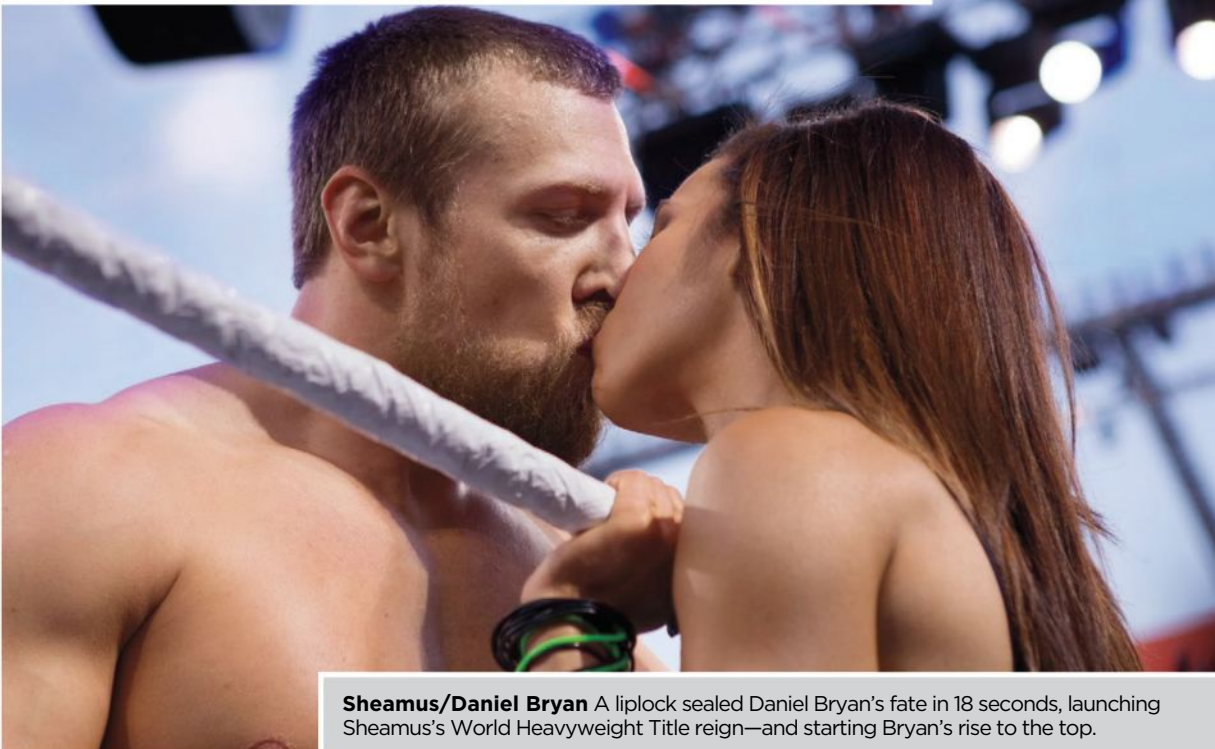
Edge's career included 31 championships, so it's only fitting he retired with title gold around his waist. No one suspected Edge was competing in his last match at WMXXVII when he defeated Alberto Del Rio to retain the World Title, but he retired a week later, making the performance something for the ages.





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The WrestleMania when a kiss changed WWE...



Sheamus/Daniel Bryan A liplock sealed Daniel Bryan's fate in 18 seconds, launching Sheamus's World Heavyweight Title reign—and starting Bryan's rise to the top.

FROM THE VAULT

DEADMAN'S JACKET



Undertaker prepared to enter Hell In A Cell against Triple H with this demonic jacket.

MVS CM PUNK

Deep into his 434-day WWE Title reign, CM Punk encountered one of his most seasoned challengers, Chris Jericho, who wanted to reclaim his title as "The Best In The World." The Straight Edge Superstar survived a top-rope Codebreaker, and reversed the Walls of Jericho into a decisive Anaconda Vise.



CENA'S SPIRAL

John Cena's loss to Rock sent him on a slump, winning only three of his next eight pay-per-view bouts—including a draw.



W	L	W	W	L	D	L	L
EXTREME RULES	WWE OVER THE LIMIT	NOWAY OUT	MONEY IN THE BANK	SUMMER SLAM	NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS	SURVIVOR SERIES	WWE TLC
04/29/2012	05/20/2012	06/17/2012	07/15/2012	08/19/2012	09/16/2012	11/18/2012	12/16/2012



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The WrestleMania when honor was defended...



Undertaker/CM Punk Undertaker laid a disrespectful "Punk" (with Paul Heyman) to rest and reclaimed his coveted urn to honor the late Paul Bearer.



Brock Lesnar/Triple H Triple H proved his days of kicking ass are far from gone by outlasting The Beast Incarnate, Brock Lesnar, in a No Holds Barred Match.



John Cena/The Rock John Cena redeemed his *WrestleMania XXVIII* loss to The Rock in a passing of the torch moment at MetLife Stadium.

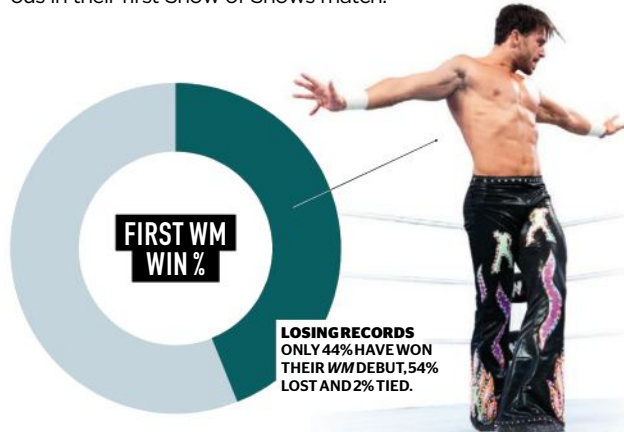
MVS THE SHIELD



The Shield faced Superstars of all sizes during their reign of terror, but none as massive as Big Show. When The World's Largest Athlete joined forces with Sheamus and Randy Orton, The Shield faced a seemingly insurmountable matchup. But The Hounds of Justice proved their perseverance, surviving a momentum burst—that included a mid-air RKO to Seth Rollins—to catch The Viper with a Spear by Roman Reigns for the victory.

JUST DANCE

Fandango won his premiere bout at *WrestleMania*, but only 44 percent of Superstars are victorious in their first Show of Shows match.





THIRTY YEARS AGO, Mr. McMahon started a new era in sports-entertainment by welcoming the world to the first *WrestleMania*. More than 1 million gathered in arenas and theaters around the country to watch the likes of Hulk Hogan and Roddy Piper become immortal at the first Show of Shows on closed-circuit TV. But a lot has changed since the days of ring carts.

WrestleMania XXX will be the premiere live WWE event to air on WWE Network, the first 24/7 streaming network available digitally on nearly

every device and platform your exes could possibly desire for only \$9.99 per month—with a six-month commitment. And with its 1,500 hours of video on demand available at launch, you can even watch every *WrestleMania* on WWE Network to get ready for this year's landmark Show of Shows in The Big Easy.

So see what Superstars will be the next to become immortal on April 6, 2014, in New Orleans' Mercedes-Benz Superdome as WWE kicks off a groundbreaking new era with WWE Network.

SHOWTIME: Watch *WrestleMania XXX* on WWE Network with any of the following:



Television
(w/a connect-
ed device,
like...)



Roku



PS3



PS4



Xbox 360



On your
desktop via
WWE.com



Or your
laptop,
too!



Android
devices (e.g.,
Samsung
Galaxy)



iOS devices
(like Apple
iPad and
iPhone)



THE DEADMAN RISES

APRIL 6, 2014

